

Describing systems of interacting fermions by boson models: exact mapping in arbitrary dimension and applications

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We develop a new method that allows us to map models of interacting fermions onto bosonic models describing collective excitations in an arbitrary dimension. This mapping becomes exact in the thermodynamic limit in the presence of a bath. The boson models can be written either in the form of a model of non-interacting bosons in a fluctuating auxiliary field or in the form of a superfield theory of interacting bosons. We show how one can study the latter version using perturbation theory. Using the developed diagrammatic technique we compared the first two orders of perturbation theory with the corresponding results for the original fermion model and found a perfect agreement. As concerns the former representation, we suggest a scheme that may be suitable for Monte Carlo simulations and demonstrate that it is free of the fermionic sign problem. We discuss in details the properties of the bosonic representation and argue that there should not be any obstacles preventing from an efficient computation.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Many body electron systems with interaction traditionally attract a strong attention. Numerous interesting phenomena of the condensed matter physics originate from the electron-electron, electron-phonon and other types of the interaction and do not exist in the ideal Fermi gas of the electrons.

Generally, models with interactions cannot be solved exactly in the space of dimensionality $d > 1$ and one has to use approximate schemes of calculation. The most developed method is the perturbation theory with respect to the interaction. Within this theory one starts with the ideal Fermi gas and calculates corrections to physical quantities assuming that the interaction is weak. Sometimes it is sufficient to compute only the first several orders of this perturbation theory, but very often in order to capture important physics, one has to sum certain series.

The formalism of the perturbation theory for the interacting electron gas is well developed (see, e.g., Ref. 1). Each term of the perturbation theory is represented diagrammatically, which enables one to carry out quite complicated calculations. Many interesting phenomena like, e.g., superconductivity are not seen in the lowest orders of the diagrammatic expansion and show up after summation of certain ladder diagrams. Consideration of chain diagrams is necessary in the microscopic theory of the Landau Fermi liquid and there are many examples of this type.

At the same time, such sequences of diagrams correspond to physically well-defined collective bosonic excitations. In the Fermi liquid theory, the chain diagrams describe particle density and spin excitations that can be spoken of as bosonic quasiparticles. From this and many other examples, where a well-defined physical quasiparticle is represented by an infinite sequence of diagrams, one

can conclude that the conventional diagrammatic technique is not always the most convenient technique for the description of interacting many body systems.

The inconveniences of the conventional perturbative methods are especially evident in situations when the interaction between the quasiparticles is important. This happens in one-dimensional systems, $d = 1$, but models in higher dimensions, $d > 1$, used for describing high T_c superconducting cuprates², heavy fermions³, etc., can hardly be successfully studied by conventional diagrammatic approaches either. These difficulties call for constructing different approaches dealing with collective excitations rather than with single particles.

Such an approach called *bosonization* is well known for one dimensional (*1D*) systems. A huge number of publications are devoted to it (see, for a review, Refs. 4,5). Attempts to bosonize higher dimensional fermionic systems have been undertaken in the past starting from the work by Luther⁶ where the Fermi surface of a special form (square or cubic) was considered. This idea was further developed by Haldane⁷ who suggested to patch the Fermi surface by a large number of segments and continued in a number of publications^{8–14}. All these bosonization schemes are based on the assumption that only small momenta are transferred by the electron-electron interaction such that, after any scattering event, the electron remains in the same segment of the Fermi surface. This case is, of course, relevant to a long range interaction but a generalization to an arbitrary interaction and arbitrary momentum transfer is hardly possible within this scheme. At the end one can reproduce results of the random phase approximation (RPA) that can be interpreted in terms of quasiparticles but the interaction between these quasiparticles cannot be taken into account properly.

Another method based on quasiclassical equations has been developed recently for an arbitrary interaction¹⁵.

Using this approach anomalous contributions to the specific heat and magnetic spin susceptibility¹⁶ have been calculated in all dimensions and new logarithmic contributions were found. In $1D$, the results obtained are in agreement with those known from renormalization group considerations¹⁹ and exact solutions for spin chains^{17,18}. They have also been confirmed in $1D$ by the conventional diagrammatic expansion²⁰ where the first non-vanishing logarithmic contribution was calculated. However, the same diagrammatic method did not exactly reproduce²¹ the logarithmic contributions to $\delta C/T^d$ for $d > 1$, where δC is the anomalous correction to the specific heat. This discrepancy has been attributed to the observation that not all the effects of Fermi surface curvature have been taken into account in Ref. 15.

One can conclude from this discussion that the problem of the bosonization in $d > 1$ has not been completely solved yet but such a method is very desirable because it would be a new tool for analytical calculations. Remarkably, fermionic models are shown to be problematic for numerical computations as well. The powerful Monte Carlo (MC) method suffers from the famous fermionic sign problem^{22–26}. The MC method implies that the partition function can be represented as a sum of terms with positive probabilities and in this case, the computation time is proportional to a power of the size of the system. This makes the MC method very robust compared to other approaches. However, the fermion determinant is negative for some paths and, actually, its average sign becomes zero in the sampling process. As a result, the computation time grows exponentially with the size of the system or inverse temperature and the advantages of MC get lost.

We are not able to list here all publications where the sign problem was discussed but (except special cases like electron systems with attraction, systems with repulsion but with half filling and some others) the solution has not been found. Moreover, according to Ref. 26, the sign problem should be NP-hard²⁷, which means that its resolution is almost impossible. We are not aware about any mathematically rigorous proof of the NP-hardness of the fermionic sign problem but it is anyway clear that it is the main problem for MC simulations.

This problem does not arise in (non-frustrated) bosonic systems, though. Therefore, it is quite natural to think about a possibility of circumventing the sign problem by mapping the initial fermionic model onto a bosonic one. Of course, it is impossible to convert real fermions into real bosons but one can think of recasting the interacting part of the fermionic action in the language of collective bosonic excitations. This leads us again to the idea of the bosonization.

In this paper, we suggest a new bosonization scheme that allows one to map in the fermionic model to a model describing bosonic excitations *exactly* in the sense that the mapping works in any dimension at any temperature and for arbitrary interactions. It can be written in a form of a model of non-interacting bosons in an

effective Hubbard-Stratonovich (HS) field. The transformation from the fermionic system to the bosonic one corresponds to using in quantum mechanics the density matrix instead of the wave functions. We argue that the representation of the model in terms of bosons in the external field should be free of the negative sign problem and can be used for MC simulations.

It should be emphasized, though, that for finite systems used in the MC simulations the new bosonized model is not exactly equivalent to the initial fermionic one. In order to derive the boson model, we need a certain regularization and a bath attached to the system. This is necessary to avoid some uncertainties in the bosonized expressions. Only after the regularization is carried out we obtain a bosonic model free of the sign problem. Completely exact mapping of the fermionic model onto the bosonic one is impossible because, technically, several electron Green functions with coinciding Matsubara frequencies and momenta cannot be converted into bosonic excitations. If we did only identical transformations we would not be able to get rid of the sign problem. At the same time, one can see from the derivation that considering a sufficiently large system with the bath any desired precision can be achieved.

Following an alternative route one can average over the HS field before making any approximation. This goal is achieved using the famous BRST (Becci-Rouet-Stora-Tyutin) transformation based on the introduction of superfields²⁸. This allows us to represent the partition function in such a form that the average over the HS field can be done immediately. After the averaging one comes to a model of bosons with quadratic, cubic and quartic interactions. We show how this model can be studied with the help of perturbation theory in the interaction terms and compare the first orders with the corresponding terms of the conventional perturbation theory demonstrating a full agreement.

The paper is organized as follows:

In Section II, we formulate the model of interacting fermions, decouple the interaction with the help of the HS transformation and map the model onto the model of bosons in the external field. We introduce a regularization that allows us to avoid singularities in the equation of motion.

In Section III, we introduce superfields, average over the HS field and derive the model of interacting bosons. After that we develop a diagrammatic technique for the superfield theory describing the bosonic excitations and demonstrate in the first orders in the interaction its agreement with the conventional perturbation theory.

Section IV is devoted to the discussion of the bosonization from the point of view of MC simulations. We discuss in detail how the negative sign contributions originate in the fermionic formulation and why they do not exist in the bosonic regularized model. Properties of the partition functions are considered in the complex plane of the electron-electron interaction, which helps to understand in details what happens in the procedure of the

bosonization. We derive formulas directly suitable for numerical simulations and give an example of numerical convergence in a case of static fields.

We discuss the obtained results in Section V.

The main results of this paper have already been presented in a shorter publication²⁹.

II. FERMIONIC MODEL AND BOSONIZATION

A. Reduction to fermions in the auxiliary field

Our method of the bosonization is quite general and is applicable to a broad class of models. Therefore we start our considerations with a general model of interacting fermions on a lattice of an arbitrary dimension. We write the Hamiltonian \hat{H} of the system as follows

$$\hat{H} = \hat{H}_0 + \hat{H}_{int}, \quad (2.1)$$

where \hat{H}_0 is the bare part describing non-interacting electrons,

$$\hat{H}_0 = - \sum_{r,r',\sigma,\sigma'} (t_{r,r'} + \mu \delta_{r,r'}) c_{r\sigma}^+ c_{r'\sigma'}^- \quad (2.2)$$

with a chemical potential μ , a hopping amplitude $t_{r,r'}$ between the sites r and r' and the spin $\sigma = +1, -1$.

The term \hat{H}_{int} describes the electron-electron interaction,

$$\hat{H}_{int} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{r,r',\sigma,\sigma'} V_{r,r'} c_{r\sigma}^+ c_{r'\sigma'}^+ c_{r\sigma'}^- c_{r\sigma}^- \quad (2.3)$$

The partition function Z can be obtained from \hat{H} the Hamiltonian \hat{H} using the standard relation

$$Z = \text{Tr} \exp(-\beta \hat{H}), \quad \beta = 1/T, \quad (2.4)$$

where T is temperature.

In order to proceed with the mapping of the fermion model onto a boson one, we will decouple the interaction term \hat{H}_{int} by integration over an auxiliary HS field. In principle, the decoupling can be performed in different ways and we should choose one of them. The choice can be different depending on the problem studied. In this work we are mostly interested in systems with an on-site repulsion. We also keep in mind a possibility of using the method for MC computations. The latter desire enforces us to use real HS fields ϕ_r depending only on one coordinate r .

At the same time, it would be advantageous to keep an arbitrary sign of the off-diagonal interaction $V_{r,r'}$. The on-site attraction is less interesting for us because MC schemes can be free of sign in this case²⁵ anyway. The bosonization procedure can be carried out also in this case with minimal changes but we do not do this here.

In order to carry out the HS transformation with the real fields ϕ_r we split the matrix $V_{r,r'}$ into its diagonal $V_{r,r}$ and off-diagonal $\tilde{V}_{r,r'}$ parts,

$$V_{r,r'} = \tilde{V}_{r,r'} + V_{r,r} \delta_{r,r'}, \quad \tilde{V}_{r,r} = 0. \quad (2.5)$$

Assuming that $\tilde{V}_{r,r'}$ is bounded from above, we can add a sufficiently large constant \bar{V} to $-\tilde{V}_{r,r'}$, ensuring the matrix

$$V_{r,r'}^{(1)} = -\tilde{V}_{r,r'} + \bar{V} \delta_{r,r'} \quad (2.6)$$

to be positive definite. (Its Fourier transform $V_{\mathbf{q}}^{(1)}$ should be positive for all momenta \mathbf{q} .) Introducing the coupling constant

$$V_0 = V_{r,r} + \bar{V}, \quad (2.7)$$

assuming it is site independent, and using the fermionic commutation relations we rewrite the interaction term \hat{H}_{int} as

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{H}_{int} &= \hat{H}_{int}^{(0)} + \hat{H}_{int}^{(1)}, \\ \hat{H}_{int}^{(0)} &= -\frac{V_0}{2} \sum_r (c_{r+}^+ c_{r+} - c_{r-}^+ c_{r-})^2 \\ \hat{H}_{int}^{(1)} &= -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{r,r',\sigma,\sigma'} V_{r,r'}^{(1)} c_{r\sigma}^+ c_{r\sigma'}^- c_{r'\sigma'}^+ c_{r'\sigma'}^- \end{aligned} \quad (2.8)$$

while the chemical potential μ should be replaced by $\tilde{\mu} = \mu - (V_0 + \bar{V})/2$.

Due to a somewhat arbitrary choice of the constant \bar{V} the coupling constants V_0 and $V^{(1)}$ are also not uniquely defined. However, this does not create any problems.

As the interaction term \hat{H}_{int} does not commute with \hat{H}_0 the HS transformation can be performed first subdividing the interval $(0, \beta)$ into segments of the length $\Delta = \beta/N$ with $N \gg 1$ and then integrating over the auxiliary field for each $\tau_l = \Delta(l - 1/2)$, $l = 1, 2, \dots, N$.

In this Section we are interested in analytical calculations and therefore we write all formulas in the continuous limit ($\Delta \rightarrow 0$) with respect to the “imaginary time” τ . Transformations for the discrete time (finite Δ) will be performed in Section IV.

We rewrite the partition function Z , Eq. (2.4), as

$$Z = \text{Tr}_{\bar{c},c} \left[\exp(-\beta \hat{H}_0) T_\tau \exp \left(- \int_0^\beta \hat{H}_{int}(\tau) d\tau \right) \right] \quad (2.9)$$

where T_τ is the time ordering operator (the time grows from the right to the left) and $\hat{H}_{int}(\tau)$ is the operator in the interaction representation,

$$\hat{H}_{int}(\tau) = \exp(\hat{H}_0 \tau) \hat{H}_{int} \exp(-\hat{H}_0 \tau). \quad (2.10)$$

The term $\hat{H}_{int}^{(0)}$ can be decoupled as follows

$$\begin{aligned} & T_\tau \exp \left(- \int_0^\beta \hat{H}_{int}^{(0)}(\tau) d\tau \right) \\ &= \int T_\tau \exp \left(\sum_{r,\sigma} \int_0^\beta \sigma \phi_r^{(0)}(\tau) \bar{c}_{r\sigma}(\tau) c_{r\sigma}(\tau) d\tau \right) \\ & \quad \times W_0[\phi^{(0)}] D\phi^{(0)} \left(\int_0^\beta W_0[\phi^{(0)}] D\phi^{(0)} \right)^{-1}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.11)$$

$$W_0[\phi^{(0)}] = \exp \left(- \frac{1}{2V_0} \sum_r \int_0^\beta \left(\phi_r^{(0)}(\tau) \right)^2 d\tau \right) \quad (2.12)$$

where $c(\tau)$ and $\bar{c}(\tau)$ are creation and annihilation operators in the interaction representation [introduced analogously to Eq. (2.10)], $\phi_r^{(0)}(\tau)$ is a real field with the bosonic periodicity, $\phi_r^{(0)}(\tau) = \phi_r^{(0)}(\tau + \beta)$.

Before decoupling the term $\hat{H}_{int}^{(1)}$, Eq. (2.8), we rewrite it in the form

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{H}_{int}^{(1)} = & -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{r,r',\sigma,\sigma'} V_{r,r'}^{(1)} (c_{r\sigma}^+ c_{r\sigma} - n) (c_{r'\sigma'}^+ c_{r'\sigma'} - n) \\ & - 2n \sum_r V^{(1)} c_{r\sigma}^+ c_{r\sigma} + \frac{N_d}{2} V^{(1)} (2n)^2, \end{aligned} \quad (2.13)$$

where $V^{(1)} = \sum_{r'} V_{r,r'}^{(1)}$, $n = \langle c_{r\sigma}^+ c_{r\sigma} \rangle$ is the fermion density per spin direction, and N_d is the number of sites in the system.

The second term in Eq. (2.13) renormalizes once more the chemical potential, such that now it equals

$$\mu' = \mu - \frac{1}{2} (V_0 + \bar{V}) + 2nV^{(1)}. \quad (2.14)$$

The last term in Eq. (2.13), $(2n)^2 V^{(1)} N_d / 2$, is a trivial contribution to the thermodynamic potential Ω .

The fermion density n should be calculated using the shifted chemical potential μ' , Eq. (2.14), and, thus solving a self-consistency equation. We assume that this has been done and consider the first term in $\hat{H}_{int}^{(1)}$ in Eq. (2.13) decoupling it by integration over another field $\phi_r^{(1)}(\tau)$,

$$\begin{aligned} & T_\tau \exp \left(- \int_0^\beta \hat{H}_{int}^{(1)}(\tau) d\tau \right) \\ &= \int T_\tau \exp \left(\sum_{r,\sigma} \int_0^\beta \phi_r^{(1)}(\tau) (\bar{c}_{r\sigma}(\tau) c_{r\sigma}(\tau) - n) d\tau \right) \\ & \quad \times W_1[\phi^{(1)}] D\phi^{(1)} \left[\int_0^\beta W_1[\phi^{(1)}] D\phi^{(1)} \right]^{-1} \end{aligned} \quad (2.15)$$

where

$$W_1[\phi^{(1)}] = \exp \left(- \frac{1}{2} \sum_{r,r'} \int_0^\beta \phi_r^{(1)}(\tau) \left(V^{(1)} \right)_{r,r'}^{-1} \phi_{r'}^{(1)}(\tau) d\tau \right) \quad (2.16)$$

and $\phi_r^{(1)}(\tau)$ is also a real periodic field, $\phi_r^{(1)}(\tau) = \phi_r^{(1)}(\tau + \beta)$. The matrix $(V^{(1)})_{r,r'}^{-1}$ is a matrix inverse to the matrix $V_{r,r'}^{(1)}$. The integral over $\phi_r^{(1)}(\tau)$ in Eqs. (2.15, 2.16) converges because $(V^{(1)})_{r,r'}^{-1}$ is positive definite.

Introducing the field

$$\phi_{r\sigma}(\tau) = \phi_r^{(0)}(\tau) + \sigma \phi_r^{(1)}(\tau) \quad (2.17)$$

we write finally the partition function Z , Eq. (2.9), in the form

$$Z = \frac{\int Z[\phi] W[\phi] D\phi}{\int W[\phi] D\phi}, \quad W[\phi] = W_0[\phi^{(0)}] W_1[\phi^{(1)}] \quad (2.18)$$

with $Z[\phi]$ equal to

$$\begin{aligned} Z[\phi] &= \text{Tr}_{\bar{c},c} \left[\exp \left(-\beta \hat{H}_0 \right) T_\tau \exp \left(- \int_0^\beta \hat{H}_{int}^{(\phi)}(\tau) d\tau \right) \right], \\ \hat{H}_{int}^{(\phi)}(\tau) &= \sum_{r,\sigma} \sigma \phi_{r\sigma}(\tau) [\bar{c}_{r\sigma}(\tau) c_{r\sigma}(\tau) - n]. \end{aligned} \quad (2.19)$$

and the Hamiltonian \hat{H}_0 now given by

$$\hat{H}_0 = \sum_{r,r',\sigma,\sigma'} (-t_{r,r'} - \delta_{r,r'} \mu') c_{r\sigma}^+ c_{r'\sigma'}, \quad (2.20)$$

with the modified chemical potential μ' from Eq. (2.14).

We calculate the trace over the fermionic operators c, c^+ introducing an additional variable $0 \leq u \leq 1$, replacing $\phi_{r\sigma}(\tau)$ by $u\phi_{r\sigma}(\tau)$ in Eq. (2.19) and writing $Z[\phi]$ in the form

$$\begin{aligned} Z[\phi] = & Z_0 \exp \left[\sum_{r,\sigma} \int_0^\beta \int_0^1 \sigma \phi_{r\sigma}(\tau) \right. \\ & \left. \times \left(G_{r,r,\sigma}^{(u\phi)}(\tau, \tau+0) - G_{r,r,\sigma}^{(0)}(\tau, \tau+0) \right) du d\tau \right] \end{aligned} \quad (2.21)$$

In Eq. (2.21), Z_0 is the partition function of the ideal Fermi gas,

$$Z_0 = \prod_{k,\sigma} \left(1 + \exp \left(-\frac{\epsilon_k}{T} \right) \right) \quad (2.22)$$

where ϵ_k are the eigenvalues of the Hamiltonian \hat{H}_0 , Eq. (2.20), and

$$G_{r,r',\sigma}^{(u\phi)}(\tau, \tau') = - \frac{\left\langle T_\tau c_{r\sigma}(\tau) \bar{c}_{r'\sigma}(\tau') \exp \left(- \int_0^\beta \hat{H}_{int}^{(u\phi)} d\tau \right) \right\rangle_0}{\left\langle T_\tau \exp \left(- \int_0^\beta \hat{H}_{int}^{(u\phi)} d\tau \right) \right\rangle_0} \quad (2.23)$$

is the electron Green function in the field $\phi_{r\sigma}(\tau)$. In Eq. (2.22), the operators c, \bar{c} and $\hat{H}_{int}^{(u\phi)}(\tau)$ are written in the interaction representation using \hat{H}_0 , Eq. (2.20), as the bare Hamiltonian and $G_{r,r',\sigma}^{(0)}(\tau, \tau')$ is the Green function of the ideal Fermi gas described by the Hamiltonian \hat{H}_0 . The symbol $\langle \dots \rangle_0$ in Eq. (2.23) stands for the

Gibbs averaging over the states of the Hamiltonian \hat{H}_0 , Eq. (2.20).

The Green function $G_{r,r';\sigma}^{(u\phi)}(\tau, \tau')$, Eq. (2.23), satisfies the following equation

$$\left(-\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} - \hat{h}_{r\sigma}[u\phi(\tau)] \right) G_{r,r';\sigma}^{(u\phi)}(\tau, \tau') = \delta_{r,r'} \delta(\tau - \tau'),$$

$$\hat{h}_{r\sigma}[u\phi(\tau)] = \hat{\varepsilon}_r - \mu' - \sigma u \phi_{r\sigma}(\tau) \quad (2.24)$$

where $\hat{\varepsilon}_r f_r \equiv -\sum_{r'} t_{r,r'} f_{r'}$ for an arbitrary function f_r .

A conjugated equation can be written as

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau'} - \hat{h}_{r'\sigma}[u\phi(\tau')] \right) G_{r,r';\sigma}^{(u\phi)}(\tau, \tau') = \delta_{r,r'} \delta(\tau - \tau'). \quad (2.25)$$

The electron Green function $G_{r,r';\sigma}^{(u\phi)}(\tau, \tau')$, Eq. (2.23), satisfies the fermionic boundary conditions

$$G_{r,r';\sigma}^{(u\phi)}(\tau, \tau') = -G_{r,r';\sigma}^{(u\phi)}(\tau + \beta, \tau') = -G_{r,r';\sigma}^{(u\phi)}(\tau, \tau' + \beta).$$

Eqs. (2.21, 2.22, 2.24, 2.25) can serve as the starting point of our bosonization scheme. In the next subsection, we derive equations for the bosonic excitations in an external time dependent HS field.

B. Equations for bosons in the fluctuating field

1. General equations.

According to the results of the previous subsection one can calculate the partition function Z solving Eq. (2.24) or (2.25) for a given configuration of the field $\phi_{r\sigma}(\tau)$, substitute the solution into Eq. (2.21), thus obtaining the functional $Z[\phi]$, and then calculate Z using Eq. (2.18). Actually, solving Eqs. (2.24, 2.25) one obtains more information than necessary because the Green function $G_{r,r';\sigma}^{(u\phi)}(\tau, \tau')$ that should be obtained from this equations depends on two times, τ and τ' , whereas these time should be taken equal in Eq. (2.21).

It is not difficult to derive closed equations for the Green function $G_{r,r';\sigma}^{(u\phi)}(\tau, \tau + 0)$ entering Eq. (2.21). Subtracting Eq. (2.24) from Eq. (2.25) and putting $\tau' = \tau + 0$, we obtain

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} - \hat{h}_{r\sigma}[u\phi(\tau)] + \hat{h}_{r'\sigma}[u\phi(\tau)] \right) G_{r,r';\sigma}^{(u\phi)}(\tau, \tau + 0) = 0 \quad (2.26)$$

We write here equal times in the functions $\phi_r(\tau)$ because we assume that they are continuous. This is not so for the Green functions $G_{r,r';\sigma}^{(u\phi)}(\tau, \tau')$ because they have a jump at equal times. For discontinuous functions $\phi_r(\tau)$ one would have to take slightly different times τ and $\tau + 0$, too.

It follows from Eq. (2.26) that

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \sum_r G_{r,r;\sigma}^{(u\phi)}(\tau, \tau + 0) = 0 \quad (2.27)$$

which shows that the total number of particles in the system of the non-interacting fermions in the auxiliary HS field $\phi_r(\tau)$ does not depend on time. To avoid confusion, we remind the reader that we started from the grand canonical formulation for the model of the interacting particles, Eqs. (2.1, 2.4), and writing about the particle conservation now we do not mean that we change the formulation of our initial model.

For subsequent manipulations, it is convenient to introduce a new function

$$A_{r,r'}(z) = G_{r,r',\sigma}^{(0)}(\tau, \tau + 0) - G_{r,r';\sigma}^{(u\phi)}(\tau, \tau + 0) \quad (2.28)$$

where $z = (\tau, \sigma, u)$.

The function $A_{r,r'}(z)$ has the property

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \sum_r A_{r,r}(z) = 0, \quad (2.29)$$

is periodic,

$$A_{r,r'}(\tau, \sigma, u) = A_{r,r'}(\tau + \beta, \sigma, u), \quad (2.30)$$

and, hence, describes bosons.

With this function, the functional $Z[\phi]$ takes a simple form

$$Z[\phi] = Z_0 \exp \left[- \sum_{r,\sigma} \int_0^\beta \int_0^1 \sigma \phi_{r\sigma}(\tau) A_{r,r}(z) dud\tau \right] \quad (2.31)$$

Eq. (2.31) is a reformulation of (2.21) in terms of $A_{r,r'}(z)$, Eq. (2.28).

Having written Eq. (2.26) we can derive a closed equation for the function $A_{r,r}(z)$, Eq. (2.28). Our procedure is very similar to deriving the kinetic equation starting from equations for Green functions³⁰.

We rewrite Eq. (2.26) at $u = 0$, and subtract it from Eq. (2.26). Using the definition of $A_{r,r'}(z)$, we come to the following equation for this function

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} A_{r,r'}(z) + M_{r,r'} A_{r,r'}(z) &= -u \sigma \Phi_{r,r';\sigma}(\tau) n_{r,r',\sigma}, \\ M_{r,r'}(z) &= \hat{\varepsilon}_r - \hat{\varepsilon}_{r'} - u \sigma \Phi_{r,r';\sigma}(\tau), \\ \Phi_{r,r';\sigma}(\tau) &= \phi_{r\sigma}(\tau) - \phi_{r'\sigma}(\tau) \end{aligned} \quad (2.32)$$

where $n_{r,r'} = G_{r,r'}^{(0)}(\tau, \tau + 0)$ is the Fermi distribution function of the ideal gas in the coordinate representation

$$\begin{aligned} n_{r,r'} &= \int n_{\mathbf{p}} \sigma e^{i\mathbf{p}(r-r')} \frac{d\mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^d}, \\ n_{\mathbf{p}} &= [\exp\{\beta(\varepsilon_{\mathbf{p}} - \mu')\} + 1]^{-1}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.33)$$

The solution of Eq. (2.32), as it stands, is not unique. One can easily see that there is a non-physical solution $A_{r,r'}(z) = n_{r,r'}$ for any $\phi_{r\sigma}(\tau)$. Moreover, for static fields $\phi_{r\sigma}$, one can add to the solution of Eq. (2.32) a combination $A_{r,r'}^{(0)}$ of the form

$$A_{r,r'}^{(0)} = \sum_k C_k v_r^k v_{r'}^k \quad (2.34)$$

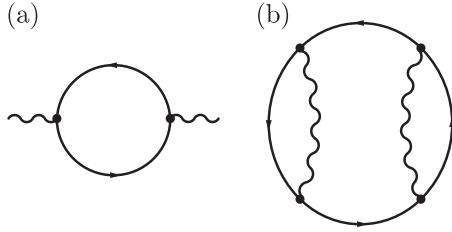


FIG. 1: Simple electronic diagrams.

where v_r^k are eigenfunctions of the operator $\hat{h}_r [u\phi]$ and C_k are time independent coefficients.

There can be less trivial solutions of the homogeneous equation corresponding to Eq. (2.32) when $\phi_{r\sigma}(\tau)$ is a discontinuous function of time with large jumps. Such solutions correspond to poles in the Green functions $G_{r,r'}(\tau, \tau + 0)$ and should be treated very carefully. The sign problem in the MC simulations appears as a result of the poles in the integrals over u in Eqs. (2.31) which arise when the fields $\phi_{r\sigma}(\tau)$ are discontinuous in time. We discuss this question in Section IV.

It is clear that the ambiguity in solving Eq. (2.32) following from the existence of solutions of the homogeneous equation creates problems in both numerical and analytical treatment. This means that a procedure fixing the proper solutions of Eq. (2.32) is necessary and we introduce it below.

2. Regularization of the bosonized model.

Seeking for the unique correct solution of Eq. (2.32) we are guided by the conventional diagrammatic technique for fermions which is well defined and all corresponding diagrams can be calculated at least in principle. In order to visualize how we come to solving Eq. (2.32) instead of summing the conventional diagrams we consider the simplest loop represented in Fig. 1 (a). The expression corresponding to this diagram can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} & T \sum_{\varepsilon, \mathbf{p}} \frac{1}{i\varepsilon - \varepsilon'_{\mathbf{p}}} \frac{1}{i\varepsilon + i\omega - \varepsilon'_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}}} \\ &= \sum_{\mathbf{p}} \frac{n_{\mathbf{p}} - n_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}}}{i\omega - \varepsilon'_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}} + \varepsilon'_{\mathbf{p}}} \end{aligned} \quad (2.35)$$

where $\varepsilon'_{\mathbf{p}} = \varepsilon_{\mathbf{p}} - \mu'$ and $\varepsilon = 2\pi(n + 1/2)T$ and $\omega = 2\pi mT$ are fermionic and bosonic frequencies, respectively.

The expression in the second line of Eq. (2.35) corresponds to the solution of Eq. (2.32) in the lowest order in ϕ , which demonstrates how the bosonic modes are obtained from the fermionic lines.

However, the first and the second lines in Eq. (2.35) are different at $\omega = 0, \mathbf{q} = 0$. The first line gives the

density of states at the Fermi surface

$$\sum_{\mathbf{p}} \frac{1}{2T} \cosh^{-2} \left(\frac{\varepsilon'_{\mathbf{p}}}{2T} \right) = \frac{\partial n}{\partial \mu} \quad (2.36)$$

but the expression in the second line is not defined. Of course, one could speak about the limit $\mathbf{q} \rightarrow 0$ instead of just putting $\mathbf{q} = 0$ but this is not justified for any finite physical system with discrete energy levels.

The uncertainty of the expression in the second line of Eq. (2.35) is reflected in the existence of solutions [like those given by Eq. (2.34)] of the homogeneous equation corresponding to Eq. (2.32).

We see that our bosonization scheme is not exactly equivalent to the initial fermionic model and needs a regularization in order to avoid the uncertainty. This uncertainty appears not only in the situation represented in Fig. 1 (a), where the field ϕ enters with $\omega = 0, \mathbf{q} = 0$. The same problem is encountered when calculating the contribution of, e.g., Fig. 1 (b), using the bosonization scheme because this graph contains fermionic Green functions at coinciding momenta and frequencies but the interaction lines may carry any momenta and frequencies. We will come back to this point when discussing in detail the diagrammatics of the bosonized theory.

The hint at a possible regularization is given by the form of Eq. (2.35). If the momenta \mathbf{q} were continuous rather than discrete and we could simply neglect the contribution of the state with $\mathbf{q} = 0$, the bosonization scheme would work in this order. This is not sufficient, though, because the momenta and frequencies of the two horizontal fermion lines in Fig. 1 (b) obtained after integration over the HS field ϕ coincide for any translationally invariant systems and one should slightly violate the translational invariance in order to split the momenta.

This goal can be achieved if we assume that the system of the interacting electrons considered here is imbedded in a “bath”. We introduce this bath considering a model of the interacting electrons on a d -dimensional lattice with the total number of sites N_d^{total} . However, we assume that the interaction $V_{r,r'}$, Eq. (2.3), entering the Hamiltonian \hat{H} , Eq. (2.1), vanishes outside a subsystem consisting of a considerably smaller number of sites N_d . As an example, we can suggest the following form of the interaction $V_{r,r'}$

$$V_{r,r'}^{total} = \begin{cases} V_{r,r'}, & |r|, |r'| < R_0 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (2.37)$$

which means that the interaction is finite inside the sphere of the radius R_0 containing N_d sites and vanishes outside this sphere. In other words, we attach metallic leads to the system of the interacting electrons and assume that the inter-electron interaction vanishes in the leads.

It is clear that the leads cannot change physics of the system of the interacting electrons if the latter is sufficiently large. However, this model is reasonable even for

a system with a small number sites N_d (quantum dot), although properties of the systems with and without leads can be different.

The form of the interaction $V_{r,r'}^{total}$, Eq. (2.37), formally violates the translational invariance and the matrix elements

$$V^{total}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{q}_0) = \sum_{\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'} V_{r,r'}^{total} e^{-i\mathbf{q}_0(\mathbf{r}+\mathbf{r}')/2 - i\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}')} \quad (2.38)$$

are finite for $\mathbf{q}_0 \neq 0$.

Of course, the matrix element with $\mathbf{q}_0 = 0$ remains finite and, for such momenta, the two Green functions in Fig. 1 (b) still have the same momenta and frequencies. However, we can neglect them because they give a small contribution provided the number of the contributing momenta \mathbf{q}_0 is large. The latter is achieved for a large number of the sites in the bath.

We emphasize, that neglecting the contribution of graphs containing several electron Green functions with coinciding momenta and frequencies is possible because their contribution is not singular. One can estimate the relative error of this approximation as being proportional to N_d/N_d^{total} , where N_d^{total} is the total number of sites in the entire system including the bath.

Following this idea we could simply exclude in the bosonization approach all propagators with $\omega = 0$, $\mathbf{q} = 0$ “by hand”. However, this is possible only when doing a perturbation theory and such an approach is not sufficient for non-perturbative and numerical studies.

The bosonic modes with $\omega = 0$, $\mathbf{q} = 0$ correspond to solutions of the homogeneous equation in Eq. (2.32). In order to discard these modes by a regular procedure we regularize Eq. (2.32) slightly changing it. This is not a trivial task because this slight modification should guarantee the complete absence of the solutions of the homogeneous equation corresponding to Eq. (2.32).

We regularize the bosonized model replacing Eq. (2.32) by a system of two equations

$$\mathcal{H}_{r,r'}(\tau) A_{a;r,r'}(z) = -u\sigma n_{r,r',\sigma} \Phi_{r,r';\sigma}(\tau) B_a, \quad (2.39)$$

where $a = 1, 2$, $\mathcal{H}_{r,r'}$ is a 2×2 matrix

$$\mathcal{H}_{r,r'}(\tau) = \Lambda_1 M_{r,r'}(z) + i\Lambda_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} + \Lambda\gamma, \quad (2.40)$$

and

$$A_{1;r,r'}(z) = \begin{pmatrix} A'_{1;r,r'}(z) \\ A''_{1;r,r'}(z) \end{pmatrix}, \quad B_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A_{2;r,r'}(z) = \begin{pmatrix} A''_{2;r,r'}(z) \\ A'_{2;r,r'}(z) \end{pmatrix}, \quad B_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The functions $A_{a;r,r'}(z)$ satisfy the bosonic boundary conditions

$$A_{a;r,r'}(\tau, \sigma, u) = A_{a;r,r'}(\tau + \beta, \sigma, u) \quad (2.41)$$

and 2×2 Pauli matrices are used

$$\Lambda_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \Lambda_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \Lambda = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.42)$$

The real parameter γ should be put to zero, $\gamma \rightarrow 0$, at the end of calculations.

With this modification we write the function $Z[\phi]$ in the form

$$Z[\phi] = Z_0 \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{r,\sigma,a} \int_0^\beta \int_0^1 \sigma \phi_{r\sigma}(\tau) A'_{a;r,r}(z) du d\tau \right] \quad (2.43)$$

The exponent in Eq. (2.43) is an even function of γ . It is not difficult to see that putting $\gamma = 0$ in Eqs. (2.39-2.43) one returns to Eqs. (2.31, 2.32). However, keeping in Eqs. (2.39-2.43) the parameter γ finite allows us to discard all the solutions of the homogeneous equation in Eq. (2.32).

This can be understood rather easily because the operator \mathcal{H} is hermitian and, therefore, its eigenvalues are real. Moreover, as will be shown in the next subsection, they appear in pairs: if an eigenvalue E exists, then the eigenvalue $-E$ exists, too. If, when changing parameters of the operator \mathcal{H} , an eigenvalue E with its counterpart $-E$ turned to zero at some point, this would mean that after crossing this point they become imaginary. However, the latter is forbidden by the hermiticity of the operator \mathcal{H} . A general proof of the absence of the solutions of the homogeneous equation in Eq. (2.39) or, in other words, absence of zero eigenvalues E of the operator $\mathcal{H}_{r,r'}(\tau)$, Eq. (2.40), is given in Appendix A.

The absence of zero eigenvalues makes the operator \mathcal{H} invertible. Since all the parameters of Eqs. (2.39-2.40) are real, the solutions $A_{a;r,r'}(z)$ are real, too. This means that the exponent in Eq. (2.43) is real and $Z[\phi]$ is real and positive. This property of the $Z[\phi]$ can be very important for numerical computations using the MC method.

Using the regularization with the parameter γ , Eqs. (2.39-2.43), we can prove a stronger than Eq. (2.29) relation for $A_{r,r'}(z)$,

$$\sum_r A_{r,r}(z) = 0 \quad (2.44)$$

Eq. (2.44) is fulfilled automatically for any solution of Eqs. (2.39-2.40). This property can be proven putting in Eqs. (2.39, 2.40) $r = r'$ and summing over r . Then, one obtains the equations

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma I'_a(z) + \partial I''_a(z)/\partial \tau &= 0 \\ \partial I'_a(z)/\partial \tau + \gamma I''_a(z) &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (2.45)$$

where $I'_a(z) = \sum_r A'_{a;r,r}(z)$, $I''_a(z) = \sum_r A''_{a;r,r}(z)$.

Only the trivial solution $I'_a(z) = I''_a(z) = 0$ satisfies the boundary condition, Eq. (2.41), leading to Eq. (2.44).

3. Spectral expansion.

In this subsection we discuss important properties of the solutions of Eqs. (2.39, 2.40) using spectral expansions in eigenfunctions of this equation. In order to better understand the difference between solutions of Eq. (2.32) and Eqs. (2.39, 2.40), let us consider both the equations.

The operator in the L.H.S. of Eq. (2.32) is not hermitian, which results in a double set of eigenfunctions $\{v_{r,r'}^K(\tau)\}$ and $\{\bar{v}_{r,r'}^K(\tau)\}$ satisfying the equations

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} + M_{r,r'} \right) v_{r,r'}^K(\tau) &= \lambda^K v_{r,r'}^K(\tau), \\ \left(-\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} + M_{r,r'} \right) \bar{v}_{r,r'}^K(\tau) &= \lambda^K \bar{v}_{r,r'}^K(\tau) \end{aligned} \quad (2.46)$$

with the boundary conditions $v_{r,r'}^K(\tau) = v_{r,r'}^K(\tau + \beta)$, $\bar{v}_{r,r'}^K(\tau) = \bar{v}_{r,r'}^K(\tau + \beta)$. Two other equations can be written taking the complex conjugate of Eqs. (2.46),

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} + M_{r,r'} \right) v_{r,r'}^{K*}(\tau) &= \lambda^{K*} v_{r,r'}^{K*}(\tau), \\ \left(-\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} + M_{r,r'} \right) \bar{v}_{r,r'}^{K*}(\tau) &= \lambda^{K*} \bar{v}_{r,r'}^{K*}(\tau). \end{aligned} \quad (2.47)$$

The orthogonality conditions for the functions $v_{r,r'}^K$ can be written as

$$\sum_{r,r'} \int_0^\beta \bar{v}_{r,r'}^K(\tau) v_{r,r'}^{K'}(\tau) d\tau = \delta^{K,K'}$$

(the same for the complex conjugates).

The eigenvalues λ^K are generally complex and $\lambda^K = 0$ is not excluded. For example, the function $A_{r,r'}^{(0)}$, Eq. (2.34), corresponds to the zero eigenvalue for static $\phi_{r\sigma}$.

All non-zero eigenvalues λ^K appear in pairs. If an eigenvalue λ^K with an eigenfunction $v_{r,r'}^K(\tau)$ exists, then the eigenvalue $-\lambda^K$ with the eigenfunction $\bar{v}_{r,r'}^K(\tau)$ exists, too. We see that nothing prevents the eigenvalues λ^K from turning at some points to zero and being complex, which is an unpleasant feature of the theory.

In contrast, the operator $\mathcal{H}_{r,r'}(\tau)$ is hermitian. The structure of the two-component vectors $S_{r,r'}^K(\tau)$ can be represented as

$$S^K = \begin{pmatrix} a^K \\ b^K \end{pmatrix}, \quad (S^K)^T = (a^K \ b^K)$$

and they can be found from the equation

$$\mathcal{H}_{r,r'}(\tau) S_{r,r'}^K(\tau) = E^K S_{r,r'}^K(\tau) \quad (2.48)$$

supplemented by the boundary condition $S_{r,r'}^K(\tau) = S_{r,r'}^K(\tau + \beta)$, where the eigenvalues E^K must be real.

The eigenstates with eigenfunctions $S_{r,r'}^K(\tau)$ and eigenvalues E^K have their counterparts with the eigenfunctions $\Lambda_1 S_{r,r'}^K(\tau)$ and eigenvalues $-E^K$.

The orthogonality condition for the eigenvectors $S_{r,r'}^K(\tau)$ follows from Eq. (2.48) and can be written as

$$\sum_{r,r'} \int_0^\beta \left(S_{r,r'}^K(\tau) \right)^+ S_{r,r'}^{K'}(\tau) d\tau = \delta^{K,K'} \quad (2.49)$$

where the symbol “+” stands for the complex conjugation and transposition “ T ”.

The completeness of the system of the eigenvectors S expressed by the relation

$$\sum_K S_{r,r'}^K(\tau) \left(S_{r_1,r'_1}^K(\tau_1) \right)^+ = \delta_{r,r_1} \delta_{r',r'_1} \delta(\tau - \tau_1) \quad (2.50)$$

allows us to write the spectral expansion for the 2×2 matrix Green function $\mathcal{G}_{r,r';r_1,r'_1}(\tau, \tau_1)$ satisfying the equation

$$\mathcal{H}_{r,r'}(\tau) \mathcal{G}_{r,r';r_1,r'_1}(\tau, \tau_1) = \delta_{r,r_1} \delta_{r_1,r'_1} \delta(\tau - \tau_1) \quad (2.51)$$

in the form

$$\mathcal{G}_{r,r';r_1,r'_1}(\tau, \tau_1) = \sum_K \frac{S_{r,r'}^K(\tau) \left(S_{r_1,r'_1}^K(\tau_1) \right)^+}{E^K} \quad (2.52)$$

Since all eigenvalues E^K are not equal to zero, the Green function $\mathcal{G}_{r,r';r_1,r'_1}(\tau, \tau_1)$, Eq. (2.52), is uniquely defined and does not have singularities. Using the properties of the eigenvectors $S_{r,r'}^K(\tau)$ explained after Eq. (2.48) we obtain a symmetry property for these functions

$$\mathcal{G}_{r,r';r_1,r'_1}(\tau, \tau_1) = -\Lambda_1 \mathcal{G}_{r',r;r'_1,r_1}(\tau_1, \tau) \Lambda_1 \quad (2.53)$$

With the Green function $\mathcal{G}_{r,r';r_1,r'_1}(\tau, \tau_1)$, Eqs. (2.51, 2.52), we write the function $Z[\phi]$, Eq. (2.43), in the form

$$\begin{aligned} Z[\phi] &= Z_0 \exp \left[\frac{1}{2} \sum_{r,r_1,r'_1,\sigma} \int_0^\beta \int_0^1 \phi_{r\sigma}(\tau) \right. \\ &\quad \times \left(\mathcal{G}_{r,r;r_1,r'_1}^{12}(\tau, \tau_1; u, \sigma) + \mathcal{G}_{r,r;r_1,r'_1}^{21}(\tau, \tau_1; u, \sigma) \right) \\ &\quad \left. \times u n_{r_1,r'_1} \Phi_{r_1,r'_1;\sigma}(\tau) d\tau du \right] \end{aligned} \quad (2.54)$$

Eqs. (2.52, 2.54) give an explicit unambiguous expression for the function $Z[\phi]$. It can be further integrated over $\phi_{r\sigma}$ using superfields, as it is done in the next Section, or calculated numerically. In the latter case, it is more convenient to solve directly Eq. (2.39) and substitute the solution into Eq. (2.43).

We check our regularization scheme in Appendix B on the model with a static HS field $\phi_{r\sigma}$.

One can interpret the real function $A_{r,r'}(z)$ as a density matrix, while Eqs. (2.32, 2.39) are analogues of the von Neumann equation. In this language, Eq. (2.44) is the particle conservation law. Using the density matrix in quantum mechanics implies a connection of the system to an environment. Within our approach, we use the regularization based on the introduction of the bath. This

enforces in a very natural way the analogy between the matrix A and the density matrix in quantum mechanics. One can say that our bosonization procedure corresponds to replacing the description of the quantum mechanics in terms of the wave functions by the description in terms of the density matrix.

In the classical limit, Eqs. (2.32, 2.39) play a role of the kinetic equation and $A_{r,r'}(z)$ (after Fourier transforming in $r - r'$) can be considered as the distribution function for a particle moving in a fluctuating field in imaginary time.

We see that the original problem of calculating the partition function of interacting fermions Z , Eq. (2.4), has been reduced after the regularization to solving Eqs. (2.39, 2.40) for a bosonic function $A_{r,r'}(z)$, substituting the solution into Eq. (2.43) and calculating the functional integral over $\phi_{r\sigma}(\tau)$ in Eq. (2.18). For an analytical investigation, this integral over $\phi_{r\sigma}(\tau)$ can be performed before doing any approximations and this is demonstrated in the next Section.

III. SUPERFIELD THEORY OF INTERACTING BOSONS AND PERTURBATION THEORY

A. Superfield theory of interacting bosons

In this subsection, we reduce the computation of the partition function Z , Eq. (2.4), to calculations with a superfield model describing interacting bosonic excitations. Eq. (2.32) resembles quasiclassical equations written in Ref. 15. The solution of these equations was represented in terms of a functional integral over 48-component supervectors, which allowed the authors to integrate over the HS field. Unfortunately, the resulting Lagrangian and calculations with it were rather cumbersome due to the large number of the components of the supervectors.

Now we use another trick, known as the Becchi-Rouet-Stora-Tyutin (BRST) transformation²⁸ (see also the book by Zinn-Justin³¹). A similar transformation was used in the quantization of non-abelian gauge theories³². In condensed matter physics, this trick has been used for the first time in Ref. 33. Using this transformation one can also represent the solution of an equation (not necessarily linear) in terms of a functional integral over both conventional and Grassmann anticommuting fields. Due to some special symmetries, both the types of the fields can be unified in a superfields depending not only on coordinates and times but also on additional anticommuting variables.

In order to avoid complicated formulas containing 2×2 matrices that appear as a result of the regularization, we restrict our consideration in this Section by the thermodynamic limit. In this limit the spectrum is continuous and the states with coinciding momenta and frequencies do not give any essential contribution anyway. This means that we put the parameter $\gamma = 0$. At the same time, we still assume that the system is imbedded in the

bath. This allows us to treat irregular expressions in a simple way because the translational invariance of the subsystem (where the interaction is finite) is broken and Green functions with coinciding momenta and frequencies give a vanishing contribution in the thermodynamic limit considered in this Section.

Let us explain this procedure in more details. Suppose, we have an equation

$$F(A) = 0, \quad (3.1)$$

where $F(A)$ is a real matrix function of a real matrix function A , and our task is to find the solution A_0 of this equation and calculate a quantity $B(A_0)$, where $B(A)$ is another matrix function. Instead of proceeding in this way, one can write $B(A_0)$ in a form of the integral

$$B(A_0) = \int B(a) \delta[F(a)] \left| \det \left(\frac{\partial F}{\partial a} \right) \right| da \quad (3.2)$$

over the variable a of the same structure as A . The modulus of the determinant in Eq. (3.2) is included in the integrand in order to normalize the δ -function.

As the next step, we represent the δ -function as

$$\delta[F(a)] = C \int \exp [i \text{Tr}(f^T F(a))] df \quad (3.3)$$

where f is a real matrix variable and the symbol “ T ” means the transposition of r and r' , $f_{r,r'}^T = f_{r',r}$. C is a normalization constant.

The determinant in Eq. (3.2) can also be represented in a form of an integral but now the variables of integration should be anticommuting Grassmann variables η and η^+ ,

$$\det \left(\frac{\partial F}{\partial a} \right) = \int \exp \left[-\text{Tr} \left(\eta^+ \frac{\partial F}{\partial a} \eta \right) \right] d\eta^+ d\eta. \quad (3.4)$$

After unifying the fields a , f^T , η , and η^+ in a superfield Ψ , the expression in the exponential can be written in a compact way. We do not present here general formulas that can be found in the book 31 but concentrate explicitly on Eqs. (2.31, 2.32).

Eq. (2.32) is linear and real and we can apply Eq. (3.2) directly. Using the transformation of Eq. (3.3) we obtain in the exponent a quadratic form in terms of the variables a and f . Then, we write the determinant with the help of Eq. (3.4) and obtain another quadratic form in the exponent containing the anticommuting variables η and η^+ .

At first glance, there should be a problem related to the presence of the modulus in Eq. (3.2) and absence of it in Eq. (3.4). Fortunately, the operator $\partial/\partial\tau + M_{r,r'}(z)$ is real and antisymmetric, which leads to an always positive determinant. Therefore, the modulus in Eq. (3.2) does not play any role in the case under consideration.

Writing the quadratic forms in the exponent using the variables a , f^T , η , and η^+ is not difficult and we do not write them in this form. A more compact form of

the functional integrals can be achieved introducing the superfields $\Psi_{r,r'}(R)$, $R = \{z, \theta, \theta^*\}$, as follows

$$\Psi_{r,r'}(R) = a_{r,r'}(z)\theta + f_{r,r'}^T(z)\theta^* + \eta_{r,r'}(z) + \eta_{r,r'}^+(z)\theta^*\theta \quad (3.5)$$

where $a_{r,r'}(z)$ and $f_{r,r'}(z)$ are real fields of the coordinates r, r' and the variables $z = (\tau, \sigma, u)$. The hermitian conjugation means complex conjugation “*” supplemented by the transposition, such that $\eta_{r,r'}^+ = \eta_{r',r}^*$. The variables θ, θ^* are artificially introduced Grassmann variables that help us to write the exponent in the compact form.

As a result, we write the functional $Z[\phi]$, Eq. (2.31), in the form

$$Z[\phi] = Z_0 \int \exp(-\mathcal{S}_0[\Psi] - \mathcal{S}^{(u\phi)}[\Psi]) D\Psi \quad (3.6)$$

where $\mathcal{S}_0[\Psi]$ is the bare part of the action

$$\mathcal{S}_0 = \frac{i}{2} \sum_{r,r'} \int \left[\Psi_{r',r}(R) \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} + (\hat{\varepsilon}_r - \hat{\varepsilon}_{r'}) \right) \Psi_{r,r'}(R) \right] dR \quad (3.7)$$

The second term $\mathcal{S}^{(u\phi)}[\Psi]$ in the exponent in Eq. (3.6) is linear with respect to the HS field $\phi_{r\sigma}(\tau)$. Its explicit form reads

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{S}^{(u\phi)}[\Psi] = & -i \sum_{r,r'} \int \phi_{r\sigma}(\tau) \left[u(\Psi_{r',r}(R) - n_{r',r}\theta) \right. \\ & \times (\Psi_{r,r'}(R) - n_{r,r'}\theta) - i\sigma\delta_{r,r'}\Psi_{r,r}(R)\theta^* \left. \right] dR \end{aligned} \quad (3.8)$$

It is interesting to remark here that the superfield $\Psi(R)$ is anticommuting, which is a rather unusual feature of the field theory considered here. However, it is very important that this field describes bosons and not fermions. This follows from the periodic boundary condition $\Psi(\tau) = \Psi(\tau + \beta)$. It is this condition that determines unambiguously the statistics of the particles. The fact that $\Psi(R)$ is anticommuting is only a formal property.

The form of Eqs. (3.6-3.8) allows us to average immediately over the HS field $\phi_{r\sigma}(\tau)$. This integration is Gaussian and is specified by Eq. (2.18). The analytic supersymmetric field theory written here relies crucially on the presence of a bath, whose function is to break the translational symmetry of the system. In order to take the bath into account, we model the interaction in the same way as in Eq. (2.37). The pair correlation of the fields with the distribution W can be written as

$$\langle \sigma\sigma' \phi_{r\sigma}(\tau) \phi'_{r'\sigma'}(\tau') \rangle_W = U_{r,r'}(R, R') \quad (3.9)$$

$$U_{r,r'}(R, R') = \delta(\tau - \tau') \left(\sigma\sigma' V_0^{total} \delta_{r,r'} + V_{r,r'}^{(1),total} \right),$$

where V_0^{total} and $V_{r,r'}^{(1),total}$ are defined from V_0 and $V^{(1)}$ according to Eqn. (2.37). The coupling constants V_0 and $V^{(1)}$ contain the constant \bar{V} that has been introduced

in a rather arbitrary manner (see, below Eq. (2.5)). However, the same constant enters the renormalized chemical potential μ' , Eq. (2.14), and the renormalized thermodynamical potential Ω written below Eq. (2.14). Of course, the constant \bar{V} should disappear from the final result for the thermodynamical potential, which can serve as a check of any computation. Actually, considering only perturbation theory in the interaction there is no necessity to introduce this constant. In such calculations the sign of $\tilde{V}_{r,r'}$ in Eq. (2.4) does not play an important role because one could decouple the interaction term with \tilde{V} integrating over purely imaginary HS. We have added \bar{V} because we want to keep the HS fields real, keeping in mind a possibility of applying the method to numerical investigations.

Using Eqs. (3.8,3.9) we easily integrate in Eq. (3.6) over the field $\phi_{r\sigma}(\tau)$ reducing the partition function Z to the form

$$Z = Z_0 \int \exp(-\mathcal{S}_0[\Psi] - \mathcal{S}_{int}[\Psi]) D\Psi \quad (3.10)$$

with $\mathcal{S}_0[\Psi]$ given by Eq. (3.7) and

$$\mathcal{S}_{int}[\Psi] = \mathcal{S}_2[\Psi] + \mathcal{S}_3[\Psi] + \mathcal{S}_4[\Psi]. \quad (3.11)$$

The term $\mathcal{S}_{int}[\Psi]$ in the action describes the interaction between the fields Ψ . The terms $\mathcal{S}_2[\Psi]$, $\mathcal{S}_3[\Psi]$ and $\mathcal{S}_4[\Psi]$ contain quadratic, cubic and quartic in Ψ terms, respectively. They can be written in the form,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{S}_2 = & \frac{1}{2} \int \sum_{r,r_1} \{ i\Psi_{r,r}(R)\theta^* - [\Psi(R), \hat{n}]_{rr}u\theta \} U_{r,r_1}(R, R_1) \\ & \times \{ i\Psi_{r_1,r_1}(R_1)\theta_1^* - [\Psi(R_1), \hat{n}]_{r_1,r_1}u_1\theta_1 \} dRdR_1, \end{aligned} \quad (3.12a)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{S}_3 = & \int \sum_{r,r',r_1} \Psi_{r',r}(R)\Psi_{r,r'}(R)U_{r,r_1}(R, R_1) \\ & \times \{ i\Psi_{r_1,r_1}(R_1)\theta_1^* - [\Psi(R_1), \hat{n}]_{r_1,r_1}u_1\theta_1 \} udRdR_1, \end{aligned} \quad (3.12b)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{S}_4 = & \frac{1}{2} \int \sum_{r,r',r_1,r_1} \Psi_{r',r}(R)\Psi_{r,r'}(R)U_{r,r_1}(R, R_1) \\ & \times \Psi_{r_1,r_1}(R_1)\Psi_{r_1,r_1}(R_1)u_1udRdR_1 \end{aligned} \quad (3.12c)$$

where $[,]$ stands for the commutator. Integration over R in Eq. (3.12a-3.12c) implies summation over σ and integration over $u, \tau, \theta, \theta^*$. The bare action \mathcal{S}_0 and the interaction term \mathcal{S}_4 , being invariant under the transformation of the fields Ψ

$$\Psi_{r,r'}(\theta, \theta^*) \rightarrow \Psi_{r,r'}(\theta + \kappa, \theta^* + \kappa^*) \quad (3.13)$$

(κ and κ^* being anticommuting variables) are fully supersymmetric in the sense of Ref. 31, whereas the terms \mathcal{S}_2 and \mathcal{S}_3 break this invariance. The invariance under the transformation (3.13) is stronger than the standard BRST symmetry for stochastic field equations [invariance under the transformation $\Psi(\theta^*) \rightarrow \Psi(\theta^* + \kappa^*)$ ³¹, and reflects additional symmetries of Eqs. (3.7,3.12c)].

Eqs. (3.10-3.12c) completely determine the new bosonic superfield theory. This model can be studied using standard methods of field theory. One can, e.g., expand in the interaction U using the Wick theorem with simple contraction rules following from the form of the bare action \mathcal{S}_0 . In the next subsection, we will demonstrate how such calculations can be carried out explicitly but now let us understand what one obtains neglecting the cubic and quartic in Ψ terms \mathcal{S}_3 and \mathcal{S}_4 in the action. In this approximation, one has a purely quadratic action and, making the Fourier transform with respect to time and space, we obtain easily for the partition function Z an RPA-like expression,

$$Z \simeq Z_0 \exp \left[-\frac{T}{2} \sum_{\omega} \int \frac{d^d \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^d} \ln K \right], \quad (3.14)$$

$$K = 1 + V_0 \int \frac{n_{\mathbf{p}-\mathbf{k}/2} - n_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{k}/2}}{i\omega + \varepsilon_{\mathbf{p}-\mathbf{k}/2} - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{k}/2}} \frac{d^d \mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^d}.$$

The same result can be obtained using Eqs. (2.18,2.31, 2.32) and neglecting the field $\phi_{r\sigma}(\tau)$ in the L.H.S. of Eq. (2.32).

In Eq. (3.14), $(K - 1)$ is the contribution of non-interacting bosonic excitations. Considering their interaction, one can fully describe the initial fermionic system.

We note that the boson model, as formulated in this paper, does not appear convenient for a standard analytical approach such as renormalization group procedures, where the low lying modes should have been singled out in the very beginning. However, the superfield model Eq. (3.11) and a proper low-energy formulation are formally quite similar. Therefore, this Section does not only serve as check of the superfield model but also as a guide for future analytical studies of low energy effects.

In the next subsections, we demonstrate how the contributions of the conventional perturbation theory¹ in the original fermion language are reproduced in the boson superfield representation. We perform this check calculating the perturbation series for the thermodynamic potential Ω up to the second order in the interaction.

B. Wick theorem and diagrams

In order to develop the perturbation theory in the interaction, we Fourier transform the superfields

$$\Psi_{rr'}(R) = T \sum_{\omega} \int \Psi_{\mathbf{p}\mathbf{p}',\omega}(\rho) e^{i(\mathbf{p}r-\mathbf{p}'r')-i\omega\tau} (d\mathbf{p}d\mathbf{p}')$$

where $\rho = (\sigma, u, \theta, \theta^*)$ and ω stands for the bosonic Matsubara frequencies. The momentum integration $(d\mathbf{p}) = d\mathbf{p}/(2\pi)^d$ extends over the first Brillouin zone.

In the Fourier representation, the bare action reads

$$\mathcal{S}_0 = \frac{1}{2i} T \sum_{\omega} \int \Psi_{\mathbf{p}'\mathbf{p},-\omega}(\rho) \{ i\omega - [\varepsilon_{\mathbf{p}} - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{p}'}] \} \Psi_{\mathbf{p}\mathbf{p}',\omega}(\rho)$$

$$\times (d\mathbf{p}d\mathbf{p}') d\rho \quad (3.15)$$

and similarly one can obtain the Fourier transform of the interaction, Eqs. (3.12a-3.12c).

According to Eq. (3.15), the bare propagator of the bosonized theory is given by

$$\langle \Psi_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{p}';\omega}(\rho) \Psi_{\mathbf{p}_1,\mathbf{p}'_1;\omega_1}(\rho_1) \rangle = (\theta - \theta_1)(\theta^* - \theta_1^*) \delta(u - u_1)$$

$$\times \delta_{\sigma\sigma_1} (2\pi)^{2d} \delta(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{p}'_1) \delta(\mathbf{p}' - \mathbf{p}_1) \frac{\delta_{\omega,-\omega_1}}{T} g(\omega; \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p}') \quad (3.16)$$

wherein, $g(\omega; \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p}')$ is the Green function in the momentum representation

$$g(\omega; \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p}') = i [i\omega - (\varepsilon_{\mathbf{p}} - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{p}'})]^{-1}.$$

Using Wick's theorem and the pairing rule, Eq. (3.16), one can calculate averages of Ψ -products arising in perturbation theory expansions analytically in a standard manner.

For a convenient diagrammatical representation, the propagator can be depicted in the form of an oriented double-line as shown in Fig. 2 (a), the first momentum \mathbf{p} being carried by the right-facing upper line, the second momentum \mathbf{p}' by the left-facing lower line.

In the same spirit, the interaction vertices, Eqs. (3.12a-3.12c), are diagrammatically represented as shown in Fig. 2 (b). Depending on whether a leg is depicted as “out-going” [right-facing] or “incoming” [left-facing], the momenta and frequencies are either reversed [momenta \mathbf{p} and \mathbf{p}' are interchanged and frequency ω changes the sign] or not. The interaction lines carrying the momentum \mathbf{q} correspond to the propagator

$$U_{\mathbf{q},\omega}(\sigma, \sigma_1) = \sigma\sigma_1 V_0 + V_{\mathbf{q}}^{(1)} \quad (3.17)$$

and are attached according to the analytical structure of Eqs. (3.12a-3.12c). In this way, the single lines within the double-line structure obey evident momentum conservation rules, whereas the bosonic frequency of each double-line is conserved in the usual way and, therefore, not labelled in the diagram.

With the rules formulated, we are now ready to discuss the perturbation theory for the thermodynamic potential Ω .

C. First order of the perturbation theory

As \mathcal{S}_4 does not break the symmetry specified by Eq. (3.13), the first order contribution to Ω in the superfield theory comes only from \mathcal{S}_2 . However, $T\langle \mathcal{S}_2 \rangle$ is not the only contribution to the first order correction $\Delta\Omega^{(1)}$ in the interaction potential. In addition, one should renormalize the chemical potential thus using μ' , Eq. (2.14), and shift the thermodynamic potential $\Omega \rightarrow \Omega + (2n)^2 V^{(1)} N_d / 2$ in accordance with Eq. (2.13). This leads to a trivial first order contribution to the thermodynamic potential Ω that can be written

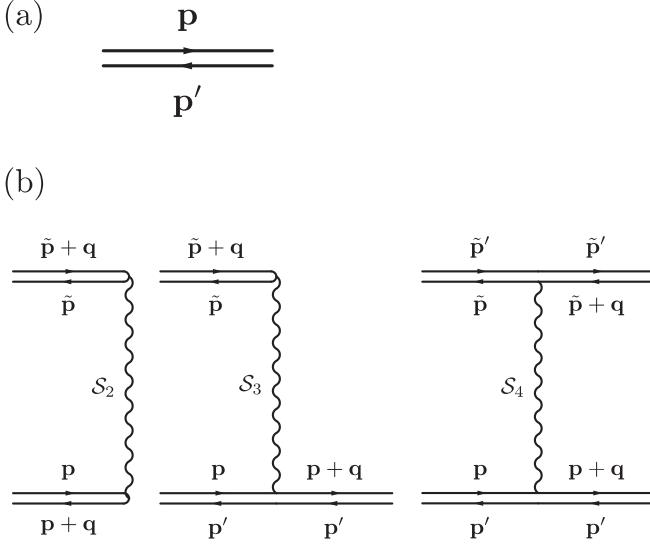


FIG. 2: Diagrammatic building blocks for perturbative calculations: (a) the boson propagator $g(\omega; \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p}')$, Eq. (3.16), (b) the interaction terms, Eqs. (3.12a-3.12c).

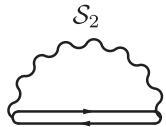


FIG. 3: First order diagram from $\langle S_2 \rangle$.

as

$$\delta\Omega^{(1)} = N_d [2n^2 V^{(1)} + (V_{r,r} + \bar{V}) n - 4n^2 V^{(1)}] \quad (3.18)$$

where $V^{(1)} = -\sum_{r'} \tilde{V}_{r,r'} + \bar{V}$ and n is the (unperturbed) fermion density per one spin direction at site r . The first term in Eq. (3.18) comes from the shift of the thermodynamic potential, Eq. (2.13). The second line originates from the shift of the chemical potential, Eq. (2.14), and is obtained using the standard relation $\partial\Omega/\partial\mu = -2nN_d$ (factor 2 is due to spin). So, the total first order contribution $\Delta\Omega^{(1)}$ to the thermodynamic potential takes the form

$$\Delta\Omega^{(1)} = T\langle S_2 \rangle + \delta\Omega^{(1)}. \quad (3.19)$$

Diagrammatically, $T\langle S_2 \rangle$ is represented in Fig. 3. The correspondence of Fig. 3 to the conventional diagrammatic technique becomes evident if we associate the double-line with two single lines representing the original fermionic propagators. Then, one can easily imagine that the diagram in Fig. 3 should yield the Fock contribution [Fig. 1 (a)]. Actually, this is not completely correct because this diagram contains also some other terms. Calculating $T\langle S_2 \rangle$ with the help of the contraction rule

(3.16) and Eq. (3.17) we obtain in the first order

$$\begin{aligned} T\langle S_2 \rangle &= T^2 \sum_{\omega} \int \langle \Psi_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}; -\omega}(\rho) \Psi_{\mathbf{p}'+\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}'; \omega}(\rho_1) \rangle \\ &\times (-i) u_1 U_{\mathbf{q}; \omega}(\sigma, \sigma_1) \theta^* \theta_1 [n_{\mathbf{p}'+\mathbf{q}}^0 - n_{\mathbf{p}'}^0] d\rho d\rho_1 (d\mathbf{p} d\mathbf{p}' d\mathbf{q}) \\ &= -N_d T \sum_{\omega} \int \frac{n_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}}^0 - n_{\mathbf{p}}^0}{i\omega - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{p}} + \varepsilon_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}}} [V_{\mathbf{q}} - 2V_0] (d\mathbf{p} d\mathbf{q}) \end{aligned} \quad (3.20)$$

where $n_{\mathbf{p}}^0$ is the bare Fermi distribution.

We can represent Eq. (3.20) in a somewhat different form using the identity

$$\begin{aligned} T \sum_{\omega} \frac{n_{\mathbf{p}'}^0 - n_{\mathbf{p}}^0}{i\omega - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{p}} + \varepsilon_{\mathbf{p}'}} &= \frac{1}{2} (n_{\mathbf{p}'}^0 - n_{\mathbf{p}}^0) \coth \frac{\varepsilon_{\mathbf{p}'} - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{p}}}{2T} \\ &= n_{\mathbf{p}}^0 n_{\mathbf{p}'}^0 - \frac{1}{2} (n_{\mathbf{p}}^0 + n_{\mathbf{p}'}^0). \end{aligned} \quad (3.21)$$

Substituting Eq. (3.21) into Eq. (3.20), we see that the term with $V_{\mathbf{q}}$ in Eq. (3.20), indeed, participates in forming the Fock contribution $\Delta\Omega_F^{(1)}$ to the thermodynamic potential

$$\Delta\Omega_F^{(1)} = -N_d \int V_{\mathbf{q}} n_{\mathbf{p}}^0 n_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}}^0 (d\mathbf{p} d\mathbf{q}) \quad (3.22)$$

However, there are other contributions $\delta'\Omega^{(1)}$ in Eq. (3.20) that should be added to that of Eq. (3.18)

$$\begin{aligned} \delta'\Omega^{(1)} &= N_d \int [2n_{\mathbf{p}}^0 n_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}}^0 (V_{r,r} + \bar{V}) \\ &+ (n_{\mathbf{p}}^0 + n_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}}^0) (V_{\mathbf{q}}/2 - V_{r,r} - \bar{V})] (d\mathbf{p} d\mathbf{q}) \end{aligned} \quad (3.23)$$

The structure of the integrand in Eq. (3.23) allows one easily integrate over \mathbf{p} and \mathbf{q} . Then, adding Eqs. (3.18, 3.23) to each other and using Eqs. (2.5-2.7) we obtain

$$\Delta\Omega_H^{(1)} = \delta\Omega^{(1)} + \delta'\Omega^{(1)} = 2N_d n^2 V_{\mathbf{q}=0} \quad (3.24)$$

which is the standard Hartree contribution. The artificial interaction \bar{V} introduced in the model drops out from the final formulas as it should.

Thus, we come in the first order to the standard expression for the correction $\Delta\Omega^{(1)}$ to the thermodynamic potential

$$\Delta\Omega^{(1)} = \Delta\Omega_H^{(1)} + \Delta\Omega_F^{(1)} \quad (3.25)$$

where $\Delta\Omega_H^{(1)}$ and $\Delta\Omega_F^{(1)}$ are the Hartree, Eq. (3.24), and Fock, Eq. (3.22), contributions, respectively.

D. Second order of the perturbation theory

The perturbation expansion in the conventional field theory for interacting fermions leads to the diagrams shown in Fig. 4. Only the diagrams in Fig. 4 (a) and (b)

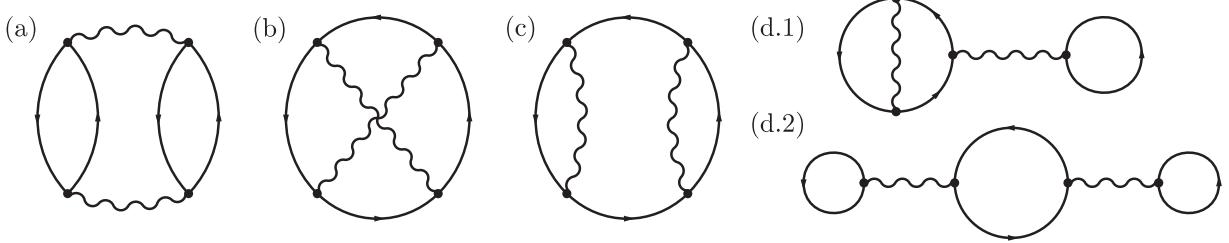


FIG. 4: Diagrams for the second order in the fermion language. Interesting low-energy contributions are only due to diagrams (a) and (b) whereas diagram (c) just renormalizes the chemical potential. To check the equivalence of the bosonized model to the original fermion one, we must check, however, that all fermion diagrammatic contributions are exactly reproduced.

are important for low-energy physics, whereas the diagram (c) merely modifies the chemical potential. The diagrams 4 (d.1) and (d.2) contain the Hartree bubbles that also result in a renormalization of the chemical potential.

Nevertheless, in order to understand details it is important to obtain *all* contributions of the perturbation theory for the boson superfield theory. Checking the exact correspondence between the original fermion and the boson models is what this Section is devoted to.

Before presenting the details of the calculations, let us make some general remarks. For $\hat{H}_{int}^{(1)}$ [Eq. (2.8)], the Hartree-type contributions 4 (d.1) and 4 (d.2) are in the boson theory generally accounted for by the renormalization of the chemical potential [Eq. (2.14)] and by the trivial contribution to the thermodynamic potential in Eq. (2.13). There is no contribution of diagrams containing closed loops of boson propagators because they vanish due to the superfield symmetry. The effective second order diagrams in the bosonized theory are shown in Fig. 5.

Drawing parallels with the conventional fermion diagrams we interpret the double-lines in Fig. 5 as pairs of single fermion propagator lines. This is similar to what we successfully did when discussing the first order diagrams. In this spirit, inspection of the diagrams suggests that the conventional RPA diagram Fig. 4 (a) is reproduced in the boson language by Fig. 5 (a), the correlation diagram Fig. 4 (b) by Figs. 5 (b.4,c.1), and, finally, the conventional diagram with the two Fock loops, Fig. 4 (c), by Figs. 5 (b.1-b.3,c.2). However, for contributions coming from the on-site interaction Hamiltonian $\hat{H}_{int}^{(0)}$ [Eq. (2.8)], this “graphical picture” describes the correspondence in a less strict way since the conventional diagrams (a) and (b) as well as the conventional diagrams (c), (d.1), and (d.2) in Fig. 4 coincide in this case, thus making a parallel between just Fig. 4 (a) and Fig. 5 (a) meaningless. In this case one can speak only about a “weaker” correspondence between Figs. 4 (a,b) and Figs. 5 (a,b.4,c.1,c.2).

Having established these parallels, the detailed calculations can be performed in an organized manner, which is straightforward though a little tedious.

Starting with $\langle S_2^2 \rangle$, the evaluation of the diagram in

Figs. 5 (a) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \langle S_2^2 \rangle &= -2N_d \sum_{\omega} \int (V_{\mathbf{q}}^2 - 2V_0 V_{\mathbf{q}} + 2V_0^2) [n_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}} - n_{\mathbf{p}}] \\ &\quad \times [n_{\mathbf{p}'+\mathbf{q}} - n_{\mathbf{p}'}] g(\omega, \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) g(\omega, \mathbf{p}' + \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}') (d\mathbf{p} d\mathbf{p}' d\mathbf{q}), \\ &= 2N_d T^2 \sum_{\varepsilon \varepsilon' \omega} \int V_{\mathbf{q}}^2 G_{\varepsilon, \mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}}^0 G_{\varepsilon+\omega, \mathbf{p}}^0 \\ &\quad \times G_{\varepsilon', \mathbf{p}'+\mathbf{q}}^0 G_{\varepsilon'+\omega, \mathbf{p}'}^0 (d\mathbf{p} d\mathbf{p}' d\mathbf{q}) \end{aligned} \quad (3.26a)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &+ 2N_d T^2 \sum_{\varepsilon \omega \omega'} \int (-2V_0 V_{\mathbf{q}} + 2V_0^2) G_{\varepsilon, \mathbf{p}}^0 G_{\varepsilon+\omega, \mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}}^0 \\ &\quad \times G_{\varepsilon+\omega+\omega', \mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}+\mathbf{q}'}^0 G_{\varepsilon+\omega', \mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}'}^0 (d\mathbf{p} d\mathbf{q} d\mathbf{q}') \end{aligned} \quad (3.26b)$$

where Eq. (2.35) has been applied and the notation $G_{\varepsilon, \mathbf{p}}^0 = (i\varepsilon - \xi_{\mathbf{p}})^{-1}$ for the fermion Green function in the original electron language is used, $\xi_{\mathbf{p}} = \varepsilon_{\mathbf{p}} - \mu$. In the second term (3.26b), the momenta in the Green functions have been shifted using the fact that at least one of the involved interaction couplings V is independent of the running momentum \mathbf{q} (on-site interaction).

Inspection of the expressions obtained shows that the first term (3.26a) is indeed identical to the conventional second order RPA contribution, Fig. 4 (a). This one-to-one correspondence of the $V_{\mathbf{q}}^2$ -term confirms the validity of the “graphical correspondence”. The form of the second term resembles the contribution of the diagram Fig. 4 (b) and therefore we expect that it should be cancelled by those diagrams of $\langle S_3^2 \rangle$ and $\langle S_2 S_4 \rangle$ that we have already related to the conventional contribution of Fig. 4 (b). Since for the purely on-site interaction the diagrams Fig. 4 (a) and (b) are indistinguishable, there is no surprise that $\langle S_2^2 \rangle$ also contributes to the conventional diagram in Fig. 4 (b) due to the presence of the $\hat{H}_{int}^{(0)}$ -channel, Eq. (2.8).

So, let us consider now the boson diagrams shown in Figs. 5 (b.4,c.1) which are of conventional type of Fig. 4 (b) in terms of their graphical shape. Their eval-

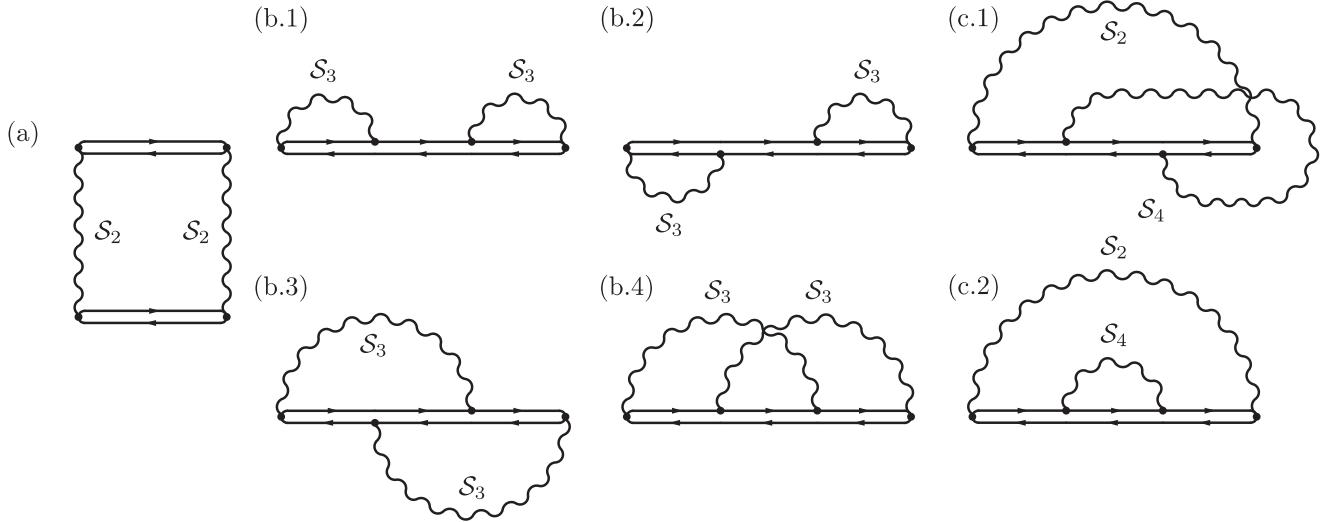


FIG. 5: Second order diagrams describing perturbation series of the superfield theory. Contributions come from $\langle S_2^2 \rangle$ [(a)], $\langle S_3^2 \rangle$ [(b.1)-(b.4)], and $\langle S_2 S_4 \rangle$ [(c.1),(c.2)].

uation yields

$$\begin{aligned} \langle S_{int}^2 \rangle^{(b.4,c.1)} &= \langle S_3^2 \rangle^{(b.4)} + \langle S_2 S_4 \rangle^{(c.1)} \\ &= -4N_d T \sum_{\omega\omega'} \int (2V_0 - V_{\mathbf{q}})(2V_0 - V_{\mathbf{q}'}) \\ &\quad \times i n_{\mathbf{p}} g(\omega + \omega', \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{q}', \mathbf{p}) \\ &\quad \times g(\omega, \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}', \mathbf{p}) g(\omega', \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) (d\mathbf{p} d\mathbf{q} d\mathbf{q}'). \end{aligned} \quad (3.27)$$

Recasting Eq. (3.27) into the original fermion language, we can equivalently write

$$\begin{aligned} \langle S_{int}^2 \rangle^{(b.4,c.1)} &= -N_d T^2 \sum_{\varepsilon\omega\omega'} \int (4V_0^2 - 4V_0 V_{\mathbf{q}} + V_{\mathbf{q}} V_{\mathbf{q}'}) \\ &\quad \times G_{\varepsilon,\mathbf{p}}^0 G_{\varepsilon+\omega,\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}}^0 G_{\varepsilon+\omega',\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}'}^0 G_{\varepsilon+\omega+\omega',\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}+\mathbf{q}'}^0 (d\mathbf{p} d\mathbf{q} d\mathbf{q}'). \end{aligned} \quad (3.28)$$

Inspecting Eq. (3.28), we see that the term with $4V_0^2 - 4V_0 V_{\mathbf{q}}$ exactly cancels the contribution (3.26b), while the term with $V_{\mathbf{q}} V_{\mathbf{q}'}$ in Eq. (3.28) is exactly the contribution originating from the conventional fermionic diagram in Fig. 4 (b). Thus, we conclude that we have verified the one-to-one correspondence of the conventional diagram family given by Fig. 4 (a,b) and their graphical counterparts in the boson diagrammatics.

Now we address the remaining second order diagrams. The diagrams of Figs. 5 (b.1) and (b.2) involve a formal propagator $g(0; \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p}) \sim 1/0$ and we need a regularization scheme. This badly defined boson propagator appears as a counterpart to the conventional diagrammatic structure of two fermion lines which carry identical frequency and momentum, cf. the discussion in Section II B. However, as has been discussed previously, this irregular expression is healed as soon as the interaction Hamiltonian is no longer translationally invariant.

As the main purpose of this Section is to check the perturbation series, it is sufficient to perform the regulariza-

tion by smearing the δ -function in the interaction matrix element $V_{\mathbf{q}} \delta_{\mathbf{q}\mathbf{q}'}$. By this procedure, the momenta and frequencies in the conventional diagram Fig. 4 (b) become in general mutually different, while the central propagator in the boson diagrams in Figs. 5 (b.1) and (b.2) has two generally different momentum arguments, e.g. $g(0; \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}' - \mathbf{q})$. The smearing of the δ -function is achieved by breaking the translational symmetry of the interaction introducing the bath as it has been done in the preceding Section.

Writing the proper analytical expressions we obtain a regularized boson propagator $g(0; \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}' - \mathbf{q}) \simeq 1/\Delta\varepsilon$, where $\varepsilon_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}'-\mathbf{q}} \simeq \varepsilon_{\mathbf{p}} + \Delta\varepsilon$ with small $\Delta\varepsilon$. Then, we should expand in $\Delta\varepsilon$ all other terms. As the original fermionic contributions are not singular in the limit $\Delta\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, we expect that the small parameter $\Delta\varepsilon$ should be compensated.

Calculating the diagrams in Fig. 5 (b.1) and (b.2) with the help of this regularization scheme, then evaluating the remaining diagrams (b.3) and (c.2) that are regular by themselves and, finally, combining all these contributions we come to the expression

$$\begin{aligned} \langle S_{int}^2 \rangle^{(b.1-3,c.2)} &= -2N_d T^2 \sum_{\omega\omega'} \int (2V_0 - V_{\mathbf{q}})(2V_0 - V_{\mathbf{q}'}) \\ &\quad \times \left\{ i n_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}} g^2(\omega; \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}) g(\omega'; \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}', \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}) \right. \\ &\quad + i n_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}'} g^2(\omega'; \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}') g(\omega; \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}') \\ &\quad - i n_{\mathbf{p}} g^2(\omega; \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) g(\omega'; \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}', \mathbf{p}) \\ &\quad - i n_{\mathbf{p}} g(\omega; \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) g^2(\omega'; \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}', \mathbf{p}) \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{\partial n_{\mathbf{p}}}{\partial \mu} g(\omega; \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) g(\omega'; \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}', \mathbf{p}) \right\} (d\mathbf{p} d\mathbf{q} d\mathbf{q}'). \end{aligned} \quad (3.29)$$

We sum over the Matsubara frequencies and obtain using

transformations similar to those leading to Eq. (3.21)

$$\begin{aligned} \langle S_{int}^2 \rangle^{(b.1-3,c.2)} &= -\frac{N_d}{2T} \int (2V_0 - V_{\mathbf{q}})(2V_0 - V_{\mathbf{q}'}) \\ &\quad \times n_{\mathbf{p}}(n_{\mathbf{p}} - 1)(2n_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}} - 1)(2n_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}'} - 1)(d\mathbf{p}d\mathbf{q}d\mathbf{q}') \\ &= 2N_d \int (d\mathbf{p}d\mathbf{q}d\mathbf{q}') \left\{ V_{\mathbf{q}}V_{\mathbf{q}'} \frac{\partial n_{\mathbf{p}}}{\partial \mu} n_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}} n_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}'} \right. \quad (3.30a) \\ &\quad \left. + (4V_0^2 - 2V_0V_{\mathbf{q}} - 2V_0V_{\mathbf{q}'}) \frac{\partial n_{\mathbf{p}}}{\partial \mu} n_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}} n_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}'} \right. \quad (3.30b) \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{1}{4}(2V_0 - V_{\mathbf{q}})(2V_0 - V_{\mathbf{q}'}) \frac{\partial n_{\mathbf{p}}}{\partial \mu} (2n_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}} + 2n_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}'} - 1). \right. \quad (3.30c) \end{aligned}$$

It is clear that all singularities have disappeared. Analyzing the expressions above we find that the first summand (3.30a) equals the contribution of the conventional diagram Fig. 4 (c). Thus, we have so far succeeded to show how the boson model reproduces all the conventional diagrams without the Hartree bubbles.

Finally, we collect all trivial second order contributions arising from the shift of the chemical potential, Eq. (2.14), and the thermodynamic potential, Eq. (2.13). Note that in this procedure, we have to expand also the Fermi functions in the contribution of the first order diagram, Eq. (3.20). Combining these trivial second order contributions with the contributions (3.30b) and (3.30c) yields the analytical expression for the collection of the Hartree-type diagrams Fig. 4 (d.1) and (d.2). The calculation is completely analogous to the one for the first order diagrams but is a little bit more tedious.

Thus, the calculations performed in this Section helped us to see that the boson model yields up to the second order the same perturbation series as the conventional theory. The perturbative calculations in the boson model are somewhat more cumbersome than the standard perturbation theory. However, our motivation for constructing the boson model is to develop a new tool for studying both analytically and numerically the low temperature physics, rather than considering lowest order diagrams exactly. The calculations presented in this Section are merely a check of the bosonic approach.

We note that the regularization based on the breaking of translational symmetry is crucial only for a class of diagrams which usually do not play an important role in the framework of analytical investigation of low lying excitations. Therefore, studying, e.g., the non-analytical corrections to the specific heat of an interacting Fermi gas^{15,21}, the inherent ambiguity of Eq. (2.32) is rather harmless because the important contributions do not require any additional regularization.

IV. DISCRETE TIME REPRESENTATION AND MONTE CARLO SIMULATIONS

A. Quantum Monte Carlo

Using exact transformations, we have mapped in the previous Sections the original fermion model, Eqs. (2.1-2.4), onto the boson model, Eqs. (2.39-2.43), or Eqs. (3.10-3.12c). We have shown how one can treat the latter model diagrammatically making expansion in the interaction terms and demonstrated in the first two orders in the interaction that the perturbation theory agrees with the conventional perturbation theory for the fermions.

In this Section we want to compare the two equivalent models from the point of view of their suitability for Monte Carlo simulations. It is well known²²⁻²⁶ that studying models for fermions one encounters the negative sign problem and the main advantages of the MC get lost. At the same time, the sign in the MC sampling is always positive for bosonic models. Therefore, it is quite natural to investigate the suitability of the boson model, Eqs. (2.39-2.43) or (3.10-3.12c), to MC simulations and clarify the question about the sign problem.

Before starting our investigation of the problem we would like to emphasize that we do not attempt discussing here effectiveness of various MC algorithms or compare them with each other. Our goal is to understand semi-quantitatively where the problems come from, how one can overcome them and how one can do computations in principle. We are aware of the fact that the concrete schemes of the calculations we suggest at the end may be not necessarily the most efficient ones, but writing explicit algorithms is beyond the scope of the present paper.

The MC method is used for computation of the average of a quantity A over configurations c in a space of these configurations

$$\langle A \rangle = Z^{-1} \sum_c A(c) p(c), \quad Z = \sum_c p(c) \quad (4.1)$$

According to this approach one chooses a set of M configurations $\{c_i\}$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, M$ with the probability $Z^{-1}p(c_i)$. Then, instead of calculating the entire sum in Eq. (4.1), one computes the sample average

$$\langle A \rangle \approx \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M A(c_i) \quad (4.2)$$

This approach is very efficient because the time of a numerical computation grows with the size of the sample in a power law, which contrasts exponential growth when using other methods.

Of course, such an approximation is possible only provided all $p(c)$ are not negative. In some cases the proper $p(c)$ can be both positive and negative and formally one may not use the approximation (4.2). In this case one

may use instead, e.g., $|p(c)|$ as the probability rewriting Eq. (4.1) as

$$\langle A \rangle = \frac{\sum_c A(c) s(c) |p(c)|}{\sum_c |p(c)|} \left(\frac{\sum_c s(c) |p(c)|}{\sum_c |p(c)|} \right)^{-1}, \quad (4.3)$$

where $s(c) = \text{sign}[p(c)]$.

One can perform the computations starting with Eq. (4.3) but the average sign $s(c)$ becomes in many important cases very small, which leads to exponentially large computation time.

The traditional scheme²²⁻²⁵ of the quantum MC simulations for the fermion models is based on the HS transformation and using $Z[\phi]$, Eq. (2.19), as the probability $p(c)$ for the MC sampling. The problem arising in this approach is that for some important configurations of $\phi_{r\sigma}(\tau)$ the functional $Z[\phi]$ becomes negative. There are some special cases like models with a half-filled band or with attraction between the fermions when $Z[\phi]$ is necessarily positive. However, generically, the MC simulations are inefficient for the fermionic models.

In principle, one could propose just to use the bosonized model, Eqs. (3.10-3.12c). However, it contains the superfields Ψ , and one cannot apply the MC method immediately. This difficulty can be overcome by decoupling the interaction with the help of HS transformation. Of course, proceeding in this way we would come back to Eqs. (2.39-2.43). Now we can argue that the solution $A_{r,r'}(z)$ of Eq. (2.39) is necessarily real and substituting it into Eq. (2.43) one must obtain positive values of $Z[\phi]$. We have explained how one comes to Eqs. (2.39-2.43) using the regularization based on introducing a bath and the small parameter γ . All the transformations leading to (2.39-2.43) were justified and therefore one may enjoy computing using the scheme free of the sign problem.

We think that this way of reasoning is correct, but it is definitely somewhat artificial: one introduces superfields, integrates over the HS fields but then returns to the equations (2.39-2.43). After making these transformations the sign problem disappears but why this has happened is not clear.

So, it is very instructive to try to understand in a more direct way how the sign problem is overcome, what are the approximations made, etc. Of course, one should discuss these things without using the superfields.

This is what the next subsections are devoted to.

B. Discrete time representation

We start the discussion with a slight extension of the original fermionic model, Eqs. (2.1-2.4). The interaction between the electrons $V_{r,r'}$, Eq. (2.3), does not depend on time. As a result, fluctuations of the HS field $\phi_{r\sigma}(\tau)$ are not correlated in time, Eq. (3.9). The function $\delta(\tau - \tau')$ describing these correlations does not create difficulties in analytic calculations but it is more convenient to slightly

smear it for our discussion. So, we change the model replacing the weight $W_0(\phi)$ in Eq. (2.12) by

$$W_\alpha[\phi] = \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2V_0} \sum_r \int_0^\beta \left[\phi_r^2(\tau) + \alpha^2 \left(\frac{\partial \phi_r(\tau)}{\partial \tau} \right)^2 \right] d\tau \right] \quad (4.4)$$

To simplify the discussion we neglect the interaction $V^{(1)}$ in Eq. (2.8) thus restricting ourselves with the on-site repulsion. According to the accepted regularization with the help of the bath we assume that the interaction is equal to V_0 inside the sphere with the radius R_0 but vanishes outside this region (c.f. Eq. (2.37)). We are interested in the limit $\alpha \rightarrow 0$ but let us take this limit at the end of the calculations. We do not see any reason why this limit should lead to results different from those for the original model.

The presence of the derivative in Eq. (4.4) introduces correlations between $\phi_r(\tau)$ at different times. We are mostly interested in the low temperature limit when the sign problem is strongest. In this limit, the pair correlation function between the fields $\phi_r(\tau)$ inside the interacting region takes a simple form

$$\langle \phi_r(\tau) \phi_{r'}(\tau') \rangle = V_0 \delta_{r,r'} \frac{\exp(-|\tau - \tau'|/\alpha)}{2\alpha} \quad (4.5)$$

showing the time correlations on the scale α .

In order to proceed with the MC computations, one should discretize the time and basic equations, which can be done in many different ways. The standard procedure is to subdivide the interval $(0, \beta)$ into slices of the length $\Delta = \beta/N \ll 1$ and consider discrete times $\tau_l = \Delta(l - 1/2)$. Within this scheme one writes the partition function Z in the form

$$Z = \lim_{\Delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\int Z'[\phi] W'_\alpha[\phi] D\phi}{\int W'_\alpha[\phi] D\phi}, \quad (4.6)$$

where

$$Z'[\phi_{r,l}] = \text{Tr}_{\bar{c},c} \left[\exp \left(-\hat{H}_0/T \right) \prod_{l=1}^N \exp \left(\Delta \sum_{r,\sigma} \sigma \phi_{r,l} \bar{c}_{r,l} c_{r,l} \right) \right],$$

$$\begin{aligned} W'_\alpha[\phi] &= \exp \left(-\frac{\Delta}{2V_0} \sum_r \sum_{l=1}^N \left(\phi_{r,l}^2 \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. + (\alpha/\Delta)^2 (\phi_{r,l+1/2} - \phi_{r,l-1/2})^2 \right) \right), \end{aligned}$$

and the subscript l of ϕ and c means that these functions are taken at the times τ_l .

The disadvantage of Eq. (4.6) is that one cannot bring the trace of the fermionic operators c, \bar{c} into an useful form without making additional approximations. Therefore, we use a slightly different representation that allows us to calculate this trace exactly and derive the bosonized form.

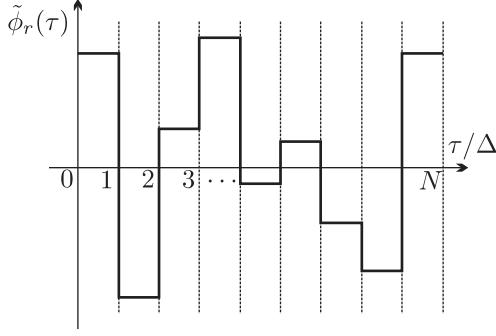


FIG. 6: Typical form of the function $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$.

Instead of using Eq. (4.6) we write the partition function Z as

$$Z = \lim_{\Delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\int Z_f[\tilde{\phi}] \tilde{W}[\tilde{\phi}] D\tilde{\phi}}{\int \tilde{W}[\tilde{\phi}] D\tilde{\phi}} \quad (4.7)$$

where $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau) = \phi_{r,l}$ for $(l-1)\Delta \leq \tau < l\Delta$ and the functional $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ equals

$$\begin{aligned} Z_f[\tilde{\phi}] &= \text{Tr}_{\bar{c},c} \left[\exp \left(-\beta \hat{H}_0 \right) \right. \\ &\quad \times T_\tau \exp \left(- \int_0^\beta \sum_{r,\sigma} \sigma \tilde{\phi}_{r\sigma}(\tau) \bar{c}_{r\sigma}(\tau) c_{r\sigma}(\tau) d\tau \right) \left. \right], \end{aligned} \quad (4.8)$$

The weight $\tilde{W}[\tilde{\phi}]$ is chosen in the form

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{W}_\alpha[\tilde{\phi}] &= \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2V_0} \sum_r \int_0^\beta \left(\tilde{\phi}_r^2(\tau) \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. + (\alpha/\Delta)^2 \left[\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau + \Delta) - \tilde{\phi}_r(\tau) \right]^2 \right) d\tau \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (4.9)$$

We assume, as for the continuous limit, that $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau) = \tilde{\phi}_r(\tau + \beta)$. Of course, the representations (4.6) and (4.7–4.9) are equivalent in the continuous limit. In Eq. (4.8) one integrates the exponent over each slice instead of taking it in the middle of the slices as it is done in the second of Eqs. (4.6).

The function $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$ is discontinuous and its typical form is represented in Fig. 6. The fluctuations of this function are essentially dependent on the ratio α/Δ . In the limit $\alpha \ll \Delta$, the typical average value $\langle [\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)]^2 \rangle_{\tilde{W}}$ calculated with \tilde{W}_α , Eq. (4.9), equals

$$\langle [\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)]^2 \rangle_{\tilde{W}} = V_0/\Delta, \quad (4.10)$$

whereas the correlation at neighboring slices is

$$\langle \tilde{\phi}_r(\tau) \tilde{\phi}_r(\tau + \Delta) \rangle_{\tilde{W}} = V_0 \alpha^2 / \Delta^3 \ll \langle [\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)]^2 \rangle_{\tilde{W}}, \quad (4.11)$$

which shows that $\langle [\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau) - \tilde{\phi}_r(\tau + \Delta)]^2 \rangle_{\tilde{W}}$ and $\langle [\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)]^2 \rangle_{\tilde{W}}$ are of the same order.

In the opposite limit, $\alpha \gg \Delta$, the fluctuations of the difference of the fields at different slices are strongly suppressed and one can replace the difference in Eq. (4.9) by the derivative. Then, we can use Eq. (4.5) for estimates to obtain

$$\left\langle \left[\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau) \right]^2 \right\rangle_{\tilde{W}} = V_0 / (2\alpha), \quad (4.12)$$

while the average squared difference of $\tilde{\phi}$ at neighboring slices equals

$$\left\langle \left(\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau) - \tilde{\phi}_r(\tau + \Delta) \right)^2 \right\rangle_{\tilde{W}} = V_0 \Delta / \alpha^2 \ll \left\langle \left[\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau) \right]^2 \right\rangle_{\tilde{W}} \quad (4.13)$$

Eqs. (4.12, 4.13) show that in the limit $\alpha \gg \Delta$ the field $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$ changes slowly from slice to slice.

Now we are prepared to discuss the origin of the sign problem and how it can be avoided using the bosonization.

Although the HS field is now discontinuous, Eq. (4.8) is a standard continuous time representation for the partition function. This means that one can use Eqs. (2.21–2.25) replacing everywhere the function $\phi_r(\tau)$ by $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$. For example, the equation for the Green function takes the form

$$\begin{aligned} \left(-\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} - \hat{h}[u\tilde{\phi}] \right) G_{r,r';\sigma}^{(u\phi)}(\tau, \tau') &= \delta_{r,r'} \delta(\tau - \tau'), \\ \hat{h}[u\tilde{\phi}] &= \hat{\varepsilon}_r - \mu' - \sigma u \tilde{\phi}_r(\tau). \end{aligned} \quad (4.14)$$

Substituting the solution of Eq. (4.14) into Eq. (2.21) one comes to the fermionic determinant for $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$,

$$Z_f[\tilde{\phi}] = \det_{r,\sigma,\tau} \left[-\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} - \hat{h}[\tilde{\phi}] \right]. \quad (4.15)$$

In the same way as in Ref. 22 we can reduce the functional $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ to the form

$$\begin{aligned} Z_f[\tilde{\phi}] &= \det_{r,\sigma} \left[1 + T_\tau \exp \left(- \int_0^\beta \hat{h}[\tilde{\phi}] d\tau \right) \right] \\ &= \det_{r,\sigma} \left[1 + \prod_{l=1}^N \exp \left(-(\hat{\varepsilon}_r - \mu' - \sigma \phi_{r,l}) \Delta \right) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (4.16)$$

In Eq. (4.16), the multipliers are ordered in l , such that the multiplier with $l = 1$ is on the right. The same representation is usually used in the standard MC simulations [Actually, one replaces each multiplier in the second line of Eq. (4.16) by the product $\exp(-(\hat{\varepsilon}_r - \mu') \Delta) \exp(\sigma \phi_{r,l} \Delta)$, which is clearly justified in the limit $\Delta \ll \beta$]. Eq. (4.16) was obtained in Refs. 22,25 as a result of discretizing the time. At the same time, we see from Eqs. (4.14, 4.15) that only the HS field $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$ is discrete now, while the derivative $\partial/\partial \tau$ is continuous as before. This allows us to bosonize the fermion model even in this discrete time representation. However, before making the proper transformations, let us discuss the origin of negative signs of $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$.

C. The negative sign problem for fermions

In the static case, when $\phi_{r,l}$ does not depend on l , the product in Eq. (4.16) is trivially calculated because the multipliers commute with each other. Then one comes to the standard expression for the partition function of fermions in a static external potential, which is clearly positive.

If the function $\phi_{r,l}$ varies sufficiently slowly in time, the adiabatic approximation can be used and the function $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ takes the form²²

$$Z_f[\tilde{\phi}] \approx \prod_k \left[1 + \exp \left(-\Delta \sum_{l=1}^N \lambda_l^{(k)} \right) \right] \quad (4.17)$$

where $\lambda_l^{(k)}$ is the eigenenergy of k -state of the Hamiltonian $\hat{h}[\tilde{\phi}]$ obtained on each slice l . This expression is, again, positive.

Actually, the negative sign of $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ may arise only when the function $\tilde{\phi}_{r,l}$ strongly fluctuates in time.

Let us see how it happens. For a given $\tilde{\phi}(\tau)$, we consider a matrix element P_{nm} of the product in Eq. (4.16) for one of the spin directions

$$P_{nm} = \sum_r v_{r,1}^{(n)} \left[\prod_{l=1}^N \exp(-\hat{h}_l \Delta) \right] v_{r,1}^{(m)} \quad (4.18)$$

where $v_{r,l}^{(m)}$ is the m -th eigenfunction of the Hamiltonian $\hat{h}_l(\tilde{\phi})$ at the l -th slice [we assume that the eigenfunctions $v_{r,l}^{(m)}$ are real and the product in Eq. (4.18) is ordered in time from the right to the left].

Using the completeness of the sets of the wave functions $v_{r,l}^{(k_l)}$ for each slice l ,

$$\sum_k v_{r,l}^{(k)} v_{r',l}^{(k)} = \delta_{rr'}, \quad (4.19)$$

we represent the matrix element P_{nm} in the form

$$P_{nm} = \sum_{\{k_l\}} \delta_{n,k_N} \delta_{k_1 m} \exp \left(-\Delta \sum_{l=1}^N \lambda_l^{(k_l)} \right) \prod_{l=1}^N \pi_l^{k_{l+1} k_l}, \quad (4.20)$$

where

$$\pi_l^{k_{l+1} k_l} = \sum_r v_{r,l+1}^{(k_{l+1})} v_{r,l}^{(k_l)}, \quad (4.21)$$

are elements of orthogonal matrices π_l , and write the function $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ as

$$Z_f[\tilde{\phi}] = \det [1 + P_+] \det [1 + P_-], \quad (4.22)$$

where $N_d^{total} \times N_d^{total}$ matrices P_{\pm} are matrices with real matrix elements $(P_{\pm})_{mn}$, Eq. (4.18), corresponding to

spins “up” and “down” [N_d^{total} is the number of the eigenfunctions corresponding to the total number of the sites in the system]. The matrices P_{\pm} are real but not necessarily symmetric.

For fields $\tilde{\phi}(\tau)$ slowly varying in time, the eigenfunctions $v_{r,l}^{(k_l)}$ on the neighboring slices are almost equal to each other and the matrices π_l are close to the unity matrix. In this case, the matrices π_l can be calculated using the standard perturbation theory for wave functions

$$v_{r,l+1}^{(m)} = v_{r,l}^{(m)} + \sum_{k \neq m} \frac{(\delta\phi_{r,l})^{km}}{\lambda_l^{(m)} - \lambda_l^{(k)}} v_{r,l}^{(k)}, \quad (4.23)$$

where $\delta\phi_{r,l} = \phi_{r,l+1} - \phi_{r,l}$ is small. Then, the off-diagonal elements of the matrices π_l take in the main order in $\delta\phi$ the following form

$$\pi_l^{mn} = \begin{cases} \frac{(\delta\phi_{r,l})^{nm}}{\lambda_l^{(m)} - \lambda_l^{(n)}}, & m \neq n \\ -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{k \neq n} \left[\frac{(\delta\phi_{r,l})^{nk}}{\lambda_l^{(k)} - \lambda_l^{(n)}} \right]^2, & m = n \end{cases}. \quad (4.24)$$

In the limit $\Delta \ll \alpha$, the characteristic values of the quantities $|\delta\phi_{r,l}|$ follow from Eqs. (4.12, 4.13)

$$|\phi_{r,l}| \sim (V_0/\alpha)^{1/2}, \quad |\delta\phi_{r,l}| \sim (V_0 \Delta / \alpha^2)^{1/2}, \quad (4.25)$$

while the average values of $\phi_{r,l}$ and $\delta\phi_{r,l}$ vanish. It is clear from Eq. (4.24) that $|\delta\phi_{r,l}| \ll |\phi_{r,l}|$ and this justifies using the perturbation theory for computation of the matrix elements π_l^{mn} , Eq. (4.24).

As we assume that $\alpha^{-1} \gg \{t_{r,r'}, V_0\}$, the wave functions $\phi_{r,l}$ are almost localized on the sites r_n and the states n are characterized by the positions of centers of the localization. Then, we estimate the denominators in Eq. (4.24) as

$$|\lambda_l^{(m)} - \lambda_l^{(n)}| = |\phi_{r_m,l} - \phi_{r_n,l}| \sim (V_0/\alpha)^{1/2} \quad (4.26)$$

Completely localized wave functions cannot give a contribution to non-diagonal matrix elements $(\delta\phi_{r,l})^{mn}$ in Eq. (4.24) and one should take into account their overlap at finite $t_{r,r'}$ leading to finite values of the wave functions on sites in the neighborhood of the center of the localization r_0 . These values can be estimated [considering the tunneling term $t_{r,r'}$ as a perturbation] as $t_{r,r_0} |\phi_{r,l} - \phi_{r_0,l}|^{-1}$ and one comes to typical absolute values of randomly fluctuating off-diagonal elements of the matrix π_l

$$|\pi_l^{mn}| \sim (t^2 \Delta / V_0)^{1/2}, \quad m \neq n \quad (4.27)$$

The estimate (4.27) is written under the assumption that all the states are non-degenerate, which is most probable for randomly chosen fields $\phi_{r,l}$. The matrix elements π_l^{mn} , Eq. (4.27), are small in the limit $\Delta \rightarrow 0$ but the matrix P , Eq. (4.20), contains a product of $N = \beta/\Delta$ matrices π_l and can essentially be different from a diagonal one. Since the matrix elements π_l fluctuate randomly

with a gaussian distribution, we estimate the off-diagonal elements of the product of N matrices entering Eq. (4.20) as $(\beta t_{r,r'}^2/V_0)^{1/2}$. This is a small number in the limit of sufficiently high temperatures

$$T \gg (t_{r,r'}^2/V_0)^{1/2} \quad (4.28)$$

and Eq. (4.28) determines the adiabatic limit. In this limit one comes to Eq. (4.17) and the fermionic determinant $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ must be positive. Alternatively, one could take lower temperatures but large $\alpha \sim \beta$, which would lead to the same result.

Let us discuss now what happens if $\alpha \ll \beta$ and the inequality (4.28) is not fulfilled. Using Eq. (4.20) we write $\det P$ for one of the spin directions in the form

$$\det P = \exp \left(-\Delta \sum_{l=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^{N_d^{\text{total}}} \lambda_l^{(k)} \right) \prod_{l=1}^N \det \pi_l. \quad (4.29)$$

As the matrices π_l are orthogonal, one comes to values $\det \pi_l = 1$ for all l and to positive values of $\det P$ in Eq. (4.29). Of course, this does not necessarily mean that the function $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$, Eq. (4.22), is positive, too.

Matrix P given by Eq. (4.20) is real but not symmetric. Such matrices cannot generally be diagonalized but one can always find a Jordan normal form for them. Assuming that P is an $M \times M$ real matrix one writes

$$P = QJQ^{-1}, \quad (4.30)$$

where the block diagonal matrix J can be written as

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} J_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & J_2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & J_{n-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & J_n \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$J_i = \begin{pmatrix} p_i & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & p_i & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & p_i & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & p_i \end{pmatrix}.$$

The sizes K_i of the blocks J_i depend on the form of the matrix P but

$$\sum_{i=1}^n K_i = M.$$

For diagonalizable matrices each block in the matrix J is just a number and all $K_i = 1$, such that $n = M$. The numbers p_i are solutions of the equation

$$\det(pI_M - P) = 0, \quad (4.31)$$

where I_M is the unity matrix, and are not necessarily real. However, as the matrix P is real, for any solution p_i of Eq. (4.31) its complex conjugate p_i^* is also a solution.

One can see easily from Eqs. (4.30, 4.31) that

$$\det[1 + P] = \prod_{i=1}^n (1 + p_i)^{K_i}, \quad \det P = \prod_{i=1}^n p_i^{K_i} \quad (4.32)$$

As we have mentioned previously, in the adiabatic limit (4.28), when the function $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$ is smooth in time, one obtains

$$\prod_{l=1}^N \pi_l \approx 1,$$

and one comes to inequalities $p_i > 0$ for all i . Deforming the function $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$, such that it can vary fast in the interval $[0, \beta]$, makes the matrix $\prod_{l=1}^N \pi_l$ essentially different from unity and some of the eigenvalues p_i can become negative, which is a necessary condition for obtaining negative values of $\det[1 + P]$.

In the limit $\Delta \gg \alpha$, all the matrix elements of the matrices π_l can be typically of order one and the changes of p_i can be large after a minimum change of a configuration of the field $\phi_{r,l}$. In this case nothing prevents p_i from jumping from positive to large negative values and making $\det[1 + P_{\pm}]$ negative.

In the opposite limit $\alpha \gg \Delta$, a smooth deformation in time of the field $\phi_{r,l}$ results in a smooth motion of the eigenvalues p_i . If we start with $\phi_{r,l}$ slowly varying in the interval $[0, \beta]$, all p_i are real and positive. Deforming the function $\phi_{r,l}$ results in a motion of the parameters p_i along the real axis. They cannot cross zero because this would mean $\det P^{\uparrow, \downarrow} = 0$, which is impossible because $\det \pi_l = 1$ for all l .

However, two different values p_i and p_k can collide and move to the complex plane forming a pair of complex conjugated values p and p^* . Again, this cannot change the sign because these two eigenvalues lead to a multiplier $|1 + p|^2$ in the determinant. A possibility to change the sign of the fermionic determinant $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ first arises when the values p and p^* collide again on the real axis at a point $p_0 < 0$. After this event one obtains again two real negative eigenvalues p_i and p_k . Then, they move separately and one of them may cross the point -1 leading to a negative value of $\det[1 + P_{\pm}]$. Still, this does not necessarily mean that the full fermionic determinant, Eq. (4.16), becomes negative because the product of the contributions corresponding to spin “up” and spin “down” should be taken but the positivity of the fermionic determinant is no longer guaranteed.

We see that, when deforming continuously the function $\tilde{\phi}_{r,l}$, a chain of several events must happen before the fermionic determinant becomes negative. Therefore, the probability of negative values of $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ may be reduced in the continuous limit, $\Delta \ll \alpha$, with respect to the opposite one, $\Delta \gg \alpha$, but one should not expect that it vanishes.

Of course, using these arguments we cannot check whether the sign of $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ changes or not for a given function $\tilde{\phi}_{r,l}$ [unless it is sufficiently smooth in the entire interval $[0, \beta]$] and this can be done only numerically. Apparently, negative values of $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ are generally possible even in the limit $\Delta/\alpha \rightarrow 0$ but we do not intend to clarify this question here. What we want to do is to replace the function $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ by *another* function $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ which is positive by construction. In doing so we expect that, although these functions are generally different for a given $\tilde{\phi}_{r,l}$, replacing $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ by $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ in Eq. (4.7) will not change the result of the integration over $\tilde{\phi}$ in the limit of a large number of sites in the system including both the main system and the bath. In the next subsection, we present arguments justifying this expectation.

D. And how it can be avoided in the bosonic representation

We start our discussion by generalizing the model under consideration to a model with an arbitrary complex electron-electron interaction writing instead of Eqs. (2.4, 2.9)

$$Z^s = Tr \exp \left[-\beta \hat{H}(s) \right], \quad \hat{H} = \hat{H}_0 + \hat{H}_{int}^{(0)}(s), \quad (4.33)$$

where the operator \hat{H}_0 is given by Eq. (2.2) with a properly shifted chemical potential and the interaction $\hat{H}_{int}^{(0)}(s)$,

$$\hat{H}_{int}^{(0)}(s) = -\frac{sV_0}{2} \sum_r (c_{r+}^+ c_{r+} - c_{r-}^+ c_{r-})^2, \quad (4.34)$$

replaces $\hat{H}_{int}^{(0)}$ in Eq. (2.8). The variable s is an arbitrary complex variable and the original partition function Z , Eq. (2.4), is obtained from Eq. (4.33) by putting $s = 1$.

For a finite system with a total number of sites N_d , the number of fermions cannot exceed $2N_d$ and the function Z^s is a finite sum of exponential functions of s . Therefore, Z^s is analytical everywhere in the complex plane of s except the infinite point. The function Z^s decays in the left half-plane when $\text{Re } s \rightarrow -\infty$ but grows in the right half-plane when $\text{Re } s \rightarrow \infty$.

If the function $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ in the integral in Eq. (4.7) becomes negative for sufficiently many configurations $\tilde{\phi}_{r,l}$, making approximations in the integrand is dangerous because the latter can be a fast oscillating functional of $\tilde{\phi}_{r,l}$. A simpler task is to calculate Z^s approximately for real negative $s < 0$ because the fermionic determinant is strictly positive in this case. These values of s correspond to an attraction between the fermions and the sign problem does not exist in this case. As soon as the function Z^s is known for real $s < 0$ one can try to make an analytical continuation to $s = 1$.

For practical computations it is more convenient to decouple the attraction term by a HS transformation corresponding to an external “potential” rather than to a

“magnetic field” acting of the spins used here because the latter enters the effective action with \sqrt{s} , which is imaginary for real $s < 0$, and such a representation is not very convenient for numerics. However, we do not change the decoupling scheme for the present discussion and simply replace $\tilde{\phi}_{r,l} \rightarrow \sqrt{s}\tilde{\phi}_{r,l}$ in Eq. (4.16). Then, the fermionic determinant $Z_f^s[\tilde{\phi}]$ can be written for real negative s as

$$Z_f^s[\tilde{\phi}] = \left| \det_r \left[1 + \prod_{l=1}^N \exp \left(- \left(\hat{\varepsilon}_r - \mu' - i\sqrt{-s}\tilde{\phi}_{r,l} \right) \Delta \right) \right] \right|^2, \quad (4.35)$$

and it is clearly positive.

Substituting Eq. (4.35) into Eq. (4.7) we obtain an integral with a positive integrand. Absence of oscillations of the integrand makes approximations more reliable and we apply the bosonization scheme for the real negative s simply substituting everywhere $\tilde{\phi}$ by $i\sqrt{-s}\tilde{\phi}$. As a result, we write a new bosonic partition function $Z_b^s[\tilde{\phi}]$ for real $s < 0$ in the form

$$\frac{Z_b^s[\tilde{\phi}]}{Z_0} = \exp \left[\frac{1}{2i} \sum_{r,\sigma,a} \int_0^\beta \int_0^1 \sigma \sqrt{-s} \tilde{\phi}_{r\sigma}(\tau) A'_{a;r,r}(z) du d\tau \right], \quad (4.36)$$

where the function A satisfies the equation

$$\mathcal{H}_{r,r'}(\tau) A_{a;r,r'}(z) = -iu\sigma \sqrt{-s} n_{r,r',\sigma} \tilde{\Phi}_{r,r';\sigma}(\tau) B_a \quad (4.37)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}_{r,r'}(\tau) &= \Lambda_1 \left(\hat{\varepsilon}_r - \hat{\varepsilon}_{r'} - iu\sigma \sqrt{-s} \tilde{\Phi}_{r,r';\sigma}(\tau) \right) \\ &+ i\Lambda_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} + \Lambda\gamma \end{aligned} \quad (4.38)$$

following from Eqs. (2.39, 2.40).

One can easily see after summation over σ that the exponent in Eq. (4.36) is real for real $s < 0$ and the function $Z_b^s[\tilde{\phi}]$ is positive. As the transformation from the fermions to bosons is almost exact and both the functions $Z_f^s[\tilde{\phi}]$ and $Z_b^s[\tilde{\phi}]$ are positive, we expect that they should be close to each other for real $s < 0$. The introduction of the finite parameter γ and of the bath is important for such s , too, because one should exclude “parasitic solutions” for $A_{a;r,r'}(\tau)$.

So, we have bosonized the fermionic system with attraction for which the sign problem does not exist anyway. Integrating over $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$ in Eq. (4.7) with $Z_f^s[\tilde{\phi}]$ and $Z_b^s[\tilde{\phi}]$ we thus obtain two partition functions Z_f^s and Z_b^s on the entire semi-axis of real $s < 0$ and argue that they should be close to each other because $Z_f^s[\tilde{\phi}]$ and $Z_b^s[\tilde{\phi}]$ are. The functionals $Z_f^s[\tilde{\phi}]$ and $Z_b^s[\tilde{\phi}]$ are positive and a small difference between them should not result in a considerable difference between the functions Z_f^s and Z_b^s .

In order to obtain the partition functions Z_f and Z_b corresponding to the original model under consideration we perform an analytical continuation of the functions

Z_f^s and Z_b^s in the complex plane of s from real negative $s < 0$ to $s = 1$. In order to analytically continue Z_f^s , one can use Eqs. (4.33, 4.34) giving a finite sum of exponentials of s and the analytical continuation is performed just putting $s = 1$ everywhere. Then, one obtains immediately all standard formulas for the fermionic system with repulsion and $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ derived from these formulas can be both positive and negative depending on $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$, which leads to the sign problem.

Having constructed the function $Z_b^s[\tilde{\phi}]$ for real negative s , Eqs. (4.36-4.38), one should integrate over $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$ using Eq. (4.7) and obtain the partition function Z_b^s . After this function has been found for all real $s < 0$ one can find uniquely an analytical continuation \tilde{Z}_b^s for complex s coinciding with Z_b^s for real $s < 0$. This means that one can represent \tilde{Z}_b^s in a form of a convergent series in powers of the complex s in a certain region of complex s including the negative real half-axis.

Below are some arguments for the analyticity of Z_b^s . As we have seen, the difference between the terms of this expansion and those for the fermionic partition function Z_f^s arises from a different treatment of two or more electronic Green functions at coinciding Matsubara frequencies and momenta. This difference should be small in the limit of a large bath and small parameter γ and therefore the Taylor expansion of the function Z_b^s should converge for all complex s in the same way as the expansion for Z_f^s does. In Section III we have checked explicitly the agreement between the partition functions Z_f and Z_b in the first two orders of the expansion in the interaction. The calculation can be repeated without changes for arbitrary complex s including real $s < 0$. Thus, the function Z_b^s is analytic for all complex s except the infinite point and the physical partition function Z_b can be obtained putting $s = 1$ in this series. This result allows us to expect that the function Z_b is a good approximation for Z_f .

Having put $s = 1$ everywhere in the series for Z_b^s we can represent it again in a form of an expansion of the integral over $\tilde{\phi}$ with $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$, Eq. (2.43), thus coming back to the bosonization formulas obtained in the previous sections. This means, that replacing the original fermionic model with the repulsion by the bosonic one, we expect a precise agreement between the results obtained by integration over $\tilde{\phi}$ of the functional $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ and $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ in the limit $\gamma \rightarrow 0$ and $N_d \rightarrow \infty$. Although both the functionals can equally be used for analytical calculations, the use of $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ may be preferable for the MC method because it is always positive in contrast to $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$.

The analyticity in the complex plane is evident for the partition function Z^s , Eq. (4.33), and our arguments justifying the approximation done in the bosonization procedure have been based on this property. However, the analyticity of Z_f^s and Z_b^s does not automatically imply the analyticity of the functions $Z_f^s[\tilde{\phi}]$ and $Z_b^s[\tilde{\phi}]$ for any given $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$ and one should check this property using explicit formulas. These functionals are close to each

other for real negative s and would remain always close for other complex s including $s = 1$ if they were analytical in the complex plane of s for all $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$, which would imply a convergent series in s . If this is not so one can expect that the functional $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ does not well approximate the functional $Z_f^s[\tilde{\phi}]$ for certain $\tilde{\phi}(\tau)$ in some regions of complex s including $s = 1$. In this case, the functional $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ used for our explicit calculations can be considerably different from the analytical continuation of $Z_b^s[\tilde{\phi}]$ from real $s < 0$ to $s = 1$ and, hence, from $Z_f^s[\tilde{\phi}]$. In particular, the functionals $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ and $Z_f^s[\tilde{\phi}]$ may have different signs for certain functions $\tilde{\phi}(\tau)$ when $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ becomes negative.

It is not easy to consider the analyticity properties of the functionals $Z_f^s[\tilde{\phi}]$ and $Z_b^s[\tilde{\phi}]$ analytically continued from Eq. (4.35) and Eqs. (4.36-4.38), respectively. It seems that $Z_f^s[\tilde{\phi}]$ is still analytical everywhere in the complex plane of s because the fermionic determinant is a finite product of exponentials and therefore can be expanded in series in integer powers of s . However, the same cannot be said about $Z_b^s[\tilde{\phi}]$, Eqs. (4.36-4.38), and we think that this quantity cannot be analytical everywhere in the complex plane of s for any $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$.

A simple way to see this is to try to repeat the regularization of Appendix A for complex s . The only difference with respect to $s = 1$ in the derivation is that the eigenvalue in Eqs. (2.47) written for complex $M_{r,r'}$ is not just λ^{K*} , where λ^K is taken from Eq. (2.46), but generally another value $\tilde{\lambda}^{K*}$. It coincides with λ^{K*} only for real $M_{r,r'}$ corresponding to positive real s .

As a result, one should replace in Eqs. (A3, A5) the value λ^* by $\tilde{\lambda}^*$. Then, one cannot exclude that for some functions $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$ and some complex s the eigenvalue E turns to zero. The subsequent integration over u in Eq. (4.36) would lead to cuts in the complex plane of s .

In this situation, the functional $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ obtained by just putting $s = 1$ in Eqs. (4.36-4.38) can differ from the analytical continuation from real $s < 0$ to $s = 1$. Then, the functionals $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ and $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ can essentially be different from each other for certain functions $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$ and can even have different signs. At the same time, the physical partition functions Z_f and Z_b can still be close to each other because the functions Z_f^s and Z_b^s are analytical everywhere in the complex plane.

This discussion may help the reader to understand why replacing the not necessarily positive fermionic determinant $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ by the always positive functional $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ we still expect the correct result for the physical partition function Z obtained after integration over all functions $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$.

The arguments of this subsection are strongly based on the assumption that the system is finite, which allowed us to speak about the analyticity of the partition function Z^s in the interaction constant sV . This analyticity can be lost at low temperatures and real $s < 0$ in the limit of an infinite sample when the system becomes a superconductor but this does not seem to create prob-

lems. A good quantitative agreement with exact results is expected for large systems implying that they include the bath.

Although the arguments presented in the last subsections may help to understand the general scenario of what happens in the process of the bosonization, they are not rigorous and their final validity is to be checked numerically.

E. Some remarks about the regularization

In this subsection, we want to emphasize that one can select the solution of Eq. (2.32) in many different ways but only one of them, Eq. (2.39), gives positive real $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ for all $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$. In principle, in the limit of a large number of sites in the bath all these solutions should lead to the same result and we simply choose the most convenient one.

Of course, just taking the original electron Green function $G_{r,r';\sigma}^{(u\phi)}(\tau, \tau')$ from Eq. (2.24) we would satisfy Eq. (2.32) for $\tau' = \tau + \delta$ but we understand that using this solution, one encounters the sign problem. There are infinitely many other solutions of Eq. (2.32) leading to non-positive weights in the MC procedure.

To see this, let us carry out the regularization keeping small but finite δ for $\tau' = \tau + \delta$. Although the parameter δ is infinitesimally small, its presence can be very important for choosing the proper solution of Eq. (2.32). As we consider discontinuous functions $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$, taking the proper limit is especially important because τ and $\tau + 0$ can belong to different slices leading to completely different values $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$ and $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau + 0)$. So, we write Eq. (2.26) in the form

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} - \tilde{M}_{r,r'}^{(+)}(z) \right) G_{r,r';\sigma}^{(u\phi)}(\tau, \tau + \delta) = 0 \quad (4.39)$$

with the operator $\tilde{M}_{r,r'}^{(+)}(z)$,

$$\tilde{M}_{r,r'}^{(+)}(z) = \hat{\varepsilon}_r - \hat{\varepsilon}_{r'} - u\sigma\tilde{\Phi}_{r,r';\sigma}^{(+)}(\tau), \quad (4.40)$$

where

$$\tilde{\Phi}_{r,r';\sigma}^{(+)}(\tau) = \tilde{\phi}_r(\tau) - \tilde{\phi}_{r'}(\tau + \delta) \quad (4.41)$$

and $\delta \rightarrow +0$.

We can repeat the transformations of subsection II B keeping a finite $\delta > 0$ and introducing the regularization with the parameter γ and the bath. As a result, we come instead of Eqs. (2.39, 2.40) to the following equations

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{r,r'}^{(+)}(\tau) A_{a;r,r'}^{(+)}(z) = -u\sigma n_{r,r',\sigma} \tilde{\Phi}_{r,r';\sigma}^{(+)}(\tau) B_a, \quad (4.42)$$

where $a = 1, 2$, and $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{r,r'}^{(+)}$ is a 2×2 matrix

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{r,r'}^{(+)}(\tau) = \Lambda_1 \tilde{M}_{r,r'}^{(+)}(z) + i\Lambda_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} + \Lambda\gamma. \quad (4.43)$$

As we have seen previously, just putting $\delta = 0$ and keeping the parameter γ finite in Eqs. (4.35, 4.36) results in strictly positive weights $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ because the solutions of the homogeneous equation in Eq. (4.42) do not exist for finite γ and one comes to a real solution for $A_{a;r,r'}(z)$. Putting $\gamma = 0$ for finite δ we can choose the solution for $A_{a;r,r'}(z)$ corresponding to the initial fermionic problem and thus obtain the functional $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ that can be both positive and negative.

In principle, one could obtain many other solutions of Eq. (4.42, 4.43) keeping both γ and δ finite. Using the spectral expansion, Eq. (2.52), it is clear that the singularities in the function $A_{r,r'}(z)$ can originate only from the zero eigenvalues $E^K = 0$ of the operator in the L.H.S. of Eq. (2.32). In order to avoid this problem we have introduced a regularization that discards such solutions. Actually, the crucial step in this regularization is taking equal times in the function $\tilde{\Phi}_{r,r'}(\tau)$ (putting $\delta = 0$ in Eq. (4.41)).

On the other hand, keeping a small $\delta > 0$ makes the eigenvalues E^K complex with an imaginary part of order δ . Although this imaginary part is infinitesimally small in the limit $\delta \rightarrow 0$, it determines the imaginary part of the integral over u in Eq. (2.43) arising near the poles corresponding to the zero eigenvalues $E^K = 0$.

We calculate explicitly the imaginary part of the eigenvalue E^K in Appendix C assuming that the eigenvalue E^K is very close to zero and show that it is finite for finite δ but vanishes in the limit $\delta/\gamma \rightarrow 0$.

Thus, our bosonization scheme should give different results depending on how we treat Eqs. (4.42, 4.43). The presence of the bath makes the partition function insensitive to the choice of the solution of this equation and we take the limit $\delta/\gamma \rightarrow 0$ leading us to the the real positive $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$.

In the next subsection, we discuss the basic properties of $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ and demonstrate that there is no reason to encounter the sign problem when using this functional.

F. Properties of the bosonic action and its suitability for numerical investigations

1. Bosonic action

In this subsection we want to demonstrate that using $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ is convenient for computations and there are no singularities or bad features, like the negative sign, that would create problems. Final formulas will be brought to a form that can immediately be used for explicit computations. We do not see any problems in taking the limit $\Delta \rightarrow 0$, $\alpha/\Delta \rightarrow 0$ in this representation and put $\alpha = 0$ in the beginning of the discussion. For convenience, we display in one place the formulas that may serve as the basis of computational schemes for the case of the on-site repulsion.

We consider the system in a bath, which means that the HS field $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$ is not equal to zero only in a region re-

stricted by a radius R_0 (c.f. Eq. (2.37)). In the rest of the sample the particles do not interact with each other and the field $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$ vanishes there. The interacting part of the free energy functional should be proportional to the number of the sites N_d located inside the sphere with the radius R_0 . In order to obtain a good precision one needs to consider a large number of sites in the bath, such that the total number of the sites N_d^{total} should considerably exceed N_d . At the same time, considering the bath should not demand a large computation time because the HS field is identically zero in that region.

We write the exact partition function Z of the original model in the form

$$Z = \lim_{\Delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\int Z_b[\tilde{\phi}] W_\Delta[\tilde{\phi}] \prod_{l=1}^N d\phi_{r,l}}{\int W_\Delta[\tilde{\phi}] \prod_{l=1}^N d\phi_{r,l}} \quad (4.44)$$

where $\beta = N\Delta$, $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau) = \phi_{r,l}$ for $(l-1)\Delta \leq \tau < l\Delta$ (see Fig. 6), and V_0 is the on-site repulsion. The values $\phi_{r,l}$ satisfy the periodicity conditions $\phi_{r,l} = \phi_{r,l+N}$. The weight $W_\Delta[\tilde{\phi}]$ has the form

$$W_\Delta[\tilde{\phi}] = \exp \left[-\frac{\Delta}{2V_0} \sum_r \sum_{l=1}^N \phi_{r,l}^2 \right]. \quad (4.45)$$

in the region under the radius R_0 . Outside this region the HS field is equal to zero identically.

In order to write the correct functional $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ in the presence of the bath, the equations of Section II have to be adjusted as concerns the shift of the chemical potential by the amount $-V_0/2$, Eq. (2.14). We assume that main system is located in a potential well and that the height of the walls equals $V_0/2$. In other words, we shift the chemical potential μ everywhere in the space by $V_0/2$, although the electron-electron interaction is present only in the main system, using the value

$$\mu' = \mu - V_0/2 \quad (4.46)$$

This homogeneous shift is convenient because at $\mu' = 0$ the presence of the bath does not violate the particle-hole symmetry. Then, the functional $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ equals

$$Z_b[\tilde{\phi}] = Z_0 \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{r,\sigma,a} \int_0^\beta \int_0^1 \sigma \tilde{\phi}_r(\tau) A'_{a;r,r}(z) du d\tau \right]. \quad (4.47)$$

where

$$Z_0 = \prod_{k,\sigma} \left[1 + \exp(-\beta \epsilon_k) \right] \quad (4.48)$$

and

$$\epsilon_k = -t(\mathbf{k}) - \mu + V_0/2. \quad (4.49)$$

In Eq. (4.49), μ is the chemical potential of the original fermion model, Eq. (2.2). The functions $A'_{a;r,r}(z)$ should be found from the linear equations

$$\begin{aligned} & \begin{pmatrix} \gamma & \mathcal{M}_{r,r'} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \\ \mathcal{M}_{r,r'} - \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} & -\gamma \end{pmatrix} A_{a;r,r'}(z) \\ & = -un_{r,r'} \sigma \tilde{\Phi}_{r,r'}(\tau) B_a, \end{aligned} \quad (4.50)$$

where $a = 1, 2$ and

$$A_{1;r,r'}(z) = \begin{pmatrix} A'_{1;r,r'}(z) \\ A''_{1;r,r'}(z) \end{pmatrix}, \quad B_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$A_{2;r,r'}(z) = \begin{pmatrix} A''_{2;r,r'}(z) \\ A'_{2;r,r'}(z) \end{pmatrix}, \quad B_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The operator $\mathcal{M}_{r,r'}$ and the function $\tilde{\Phi}_{r,r'}(\tau)$ are defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}_{r,r'}(z) &= \hat{\varepsilon}_r - \hat{\varepsilon}_{r'} - u\sigma \tilde{\Phi}_{r,r'}(\tau), \\ \tilde{\Phi}_{r,r'}(\tau) &= \tilde{\phi}_r(\tau) - \tilde{\phi}_{r'}(\tau), \end{aligned} \quad (4.51)$$

Finally, $n_{r,r'}$ is the Fermi distribution

$$\begin{aligned} n_{r,r'} &= \sum_k n_k e^{ik(r-r')}, \\ n_k &= [\exp\{\beta \epsilon_k\} + 1]^{-1}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.52)$$

Both the functions $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$ and $A_{r,r'}(z)$, $z = (\tau, \sigma, u)$, should be periodic in time: $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau) = \tilde{\phi}_r(\tau + \beta)$ and

$$A_{a;r,r'}(\tau, \sigma, u) = A_{a;r,r'}(\tau + \beta, \sigma, u) \quad (4.53)$$

The real parameter γ should be taken as small as necessary to be sure that the final result is insensitive to its value.

In order to calculate the partition function Z , one should solve Eq. (4.50-4.53) for a set of functions $\phi_{r,l}$ defined on the slices and a small parameter γ , substitute the solution $A'_{a;r,r'}(z_l)$ into Eq. (4.47) and find the function $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$. This function is positive because the solution $A_{a;r,r'}(z_l)$ must be real. Then, one can calculate Z in Eq. (4.44) using $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ as the probability in the MC sampling for finite Δ diminishing this length as much as necessary. We emphasize here that there should not be any principle limitation of the computational accuracy provided a sufficiently large system is considered and sufficiently small length of the time slices is used.

These arguments are based on the fact that the solutions $A_{r,r'}(z)$ are real and non-singular, such that integrating over u does not generate imaginary parts. This property of the solution follows from the spectral expansion, Eqs. (2.52, 2.54) supplemented by the proof that the real eigenvalues E entering the sum in Eq. (2.52) in pairs E and $-E$ cannot be equal to zero (see Appendix A). Moreover, due to the fact that the eigenstates enter in pairs with the eigenvalues E and $-E$, the entire exponent in Eqs. (2.54, 4.47) does not become singular even for very small E due to the mutual compensation of the divergencies in the pairs. This follows also from the symmetry property of the Green function, Eq. (2.53). As all the parameters of the equations are real, there is no danger to obtain an imaginary part in the exponent in Eq. (2.54) and therefore the weight $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ is always positive.

In the limit of a very weak interaction V_0 , typical $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$ are small and one can neglect them in the expression for $\mathcal{M}_{r,r'}$, Eq. (4.51). Then, eigenvalues λ_k and eigenfunctions v_r^k of this operator do not depend on the number of the slices and can easily be obtained in the form

$$v_r^k = c_{\mathbf{k}} (\cos \mathbf{k}r, \sin \mathbf{k}r), \quad \lambda_k = \varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}}, \quad (4.54)$$

where c_k are normalization coefficients.

In this limit, one can solve Eq. (4.50) by Fourier transforming both the sides in space and time. This allows one to write the Fourier transformed solution as

$$A'_a(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}', \omega) = \frac{\sigma u (\varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}} - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}'} - i\omega) (n_{\mathbf{k}} - n_{\mathbf{k}'}) \phi_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}', \omega}}{\omega^2 + (\varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}} - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}'})^2 + \gamma^2} \quad (4.55)$$

Substituting Eq. (4.55) into Eqs. (4.44, 4.47) and taking the limit $\gamma \rightarrow 0$ and $\Delta \rightarrow 0$ we come to the RPA result, Eq. (3.14). The integral over u and summation over σ are trivial in this calculation.

The presence of the regularizing parameter γ results in the vanishing of the contribution of the state with $\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{k}'$, $\omega = 0$. However, the error is small because the sum extends over many states with different \mathbf{k} that inevitably exist due to the bath.

2. Integral form of the equation

The differential with respect to time equation (4.50) can be written in the integral form with the help of the bare Green function $\mathcal{G}_{r,r';r_1,r'_1}^0(\tau, \tau_1)$ introduced as the solution of the equation

$$\begin{pmatrix} \gamma & \hat{\varepsilon}_r - \hat{\varepsilon}_{r'} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \\ \hat{\varepsilon}_r - \hat{\varepsilon}_{r'} - \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} & -\gamma \end{pmatrix} \mathcal{G}_{r,r';r_1,r'_1}^0(\tau, \tau_1) = \delta_{r,r_1} \delta_{r',r'_1} \delta(\tau - \tau_1) \quad (4.56)$$

The function $\mathcal{G}_{r,r';r_1,r'_1}^0(\tau, \tau_1)$ is a 2×2 matrix and is uniquely defined by the boundary conditions

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{G}_{r,r';r_1,r'_1}^0(\tau, \tau_1) &= \mathcal{G}_{r,r';r_1,r'_1}^0(\tau + \beta, \tau_1) \\ &= \mathcal{G}_{r,r';r_1,r'_1}^0(\tau, \tau_1 + \beta) \end{aligned} \quad (4.57)$$

The corresponding homogeneous equation does not have solutions due to the presence of the parameter γ .

The bare Green function $\mathcal{G}_{r,r';r_1,r'_1}^0(\tau, \tau_1)$ can easily be found by Fourier transformation and can be written explicitly as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{G}_{r,r';r_1,r'_1}^0(\tau, \tau_1) &= \frac{T}{(N_d^{total})^2} \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}', \omega} \frac{e^{i\mathbf{k}(\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}_1)-i\mathbf{k}'(\mathbf{r}'-\mathbf{r}'_1)-i\omega(\tau-\tau_1)}}{\omega \Lambda_2 + (\varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}} - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}'}) \Lambda_1 + \gamma \Lambda} \end{aligned} \quad (4.58)$$

where the Pauli matrices Λ , Λ_1 , Λ_2 are specified in Eq. (2.42).

Eq. (4.58) is written for the entire system including the bath and the momenta \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}' correspond to this enlarged system. Accordingly, the total number of sites N_d^{total} enters the normalization factor in Eq. (4.58). The state with $\omega = 0$, $\varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}} = \varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}'}$ is included in the sum in Eq. (4.58).

One can perform summation over the bosonic frequencies $\omega = 2\pi Tn$ in Eq. (4.58) using the formula

$$T \sum_{\omega} \frac{\exp(-i\omega(\tau - \tau_1))}{-i\omega + a} = \frac{\text{sgn}(\tau - \tau_1) \exp(-a(\tau - \tau_1))}{1 - \exp(-a\beta \text{sgn}(\tau - \tau_1))} \quad (4.59)$$

where the symbol “*sgn*” stands for the sign and a is a number. This gives the following expression for the Green function $\mathcal{G}_{r,r';r_1,r'_1}^0(\tau, \tau_1)$ for arbitrary coordinates and times

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{G}_{r,r';r_1,r'_1}^0(\tau, \tau_1) &= g \left[\frac{\exp[b(\tau - \tau_1) \hat{f}_{r_1,r'_1}]}{2 \sinh[\beta \hat{f}_{r_1,r'_1}/2]} \right] \delta_{r,r_1} \delta_{r',r'_1}, \\ g &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \hat{f}_{r,r'} = (\hat{\varepsilon}_r - \hat{\varepsilon}_{r'}) \Lambda - \gamma \Lambda_1 \end{aligned} \quad (4.60)$$

where

$$b(\tau - \tau_1) = \text{sgn}(\tau - \tau_1) \beta/2 - (\tau - \tau_1), \quad (4.61)$$

In Eq. (4.60) the operators $\hat{\varepsilon}_{r_1}$ and $\hat{\varepsilon}_{r'_1}$ act on the corresponding variables entering the δ -functions on the right. The function $\mathcal{G}_{r,r';r_1,r'_1}^0(\tau, \tau_1)$, Eq. (4.60), is explicitly real and free of singularities.

Using the Green function $\mathcal{G}_{r,r';r_1,r'_1}^0(\tau, \tau_1)$, Eq. (4.60), we reduce Eq. (4.50) to the form

$$\begin{aligned} &\left[- \sum_{r_1, r'_1} \int_0^\beta \mathcal{G}_{r,r';r_1,r'_1}^0(\tau, \tau_1) u \sigma \tilde{\Phi}_{r_1, r'_1}(\tau_1) \Lambda_1 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \delta(\tau - \tau_1) \delta_{r,r_1} \delta_{r',r'_1} \right] A_{a;r_1,r'_1}(\tau_1, \sigma, u) d\tau_1 \\ &= - \sum_{r_1, r'_1} \int \mathcal{G}_{r,r';r_1,r'_1}^0(\tau, \tau_1) u n_{r_1, r'_1} \sigma \tilde{\Phi}_{r_1, r'_1}(\tau_1) B_a d\tau_1 \end{aligned} \quad (4.62)$$

Eq. (4.62) can serve as the basis of many numerical approaches. One can, e.g., solve this equation recursively neglecting in the zeroth approximation the function $\tilde{\Phi}_{r_1, r'_1}(\tau_1)$ in the L.H.S. and then calculating all orders of $\tilde{\Phi}_{r_1, r'_1}(\tau_1)$ or one can just invert the operator acting on $A_{a;r,r'}(z)$ in the L.H.S. of the equation. Due to the regularization, the zero eigenvalues of the operator in the L.H.S. are discarded. Therefore all these operations are well defined and one should not encounter any singularity. In particular, one can invert the operator acting on $A_{a;r,r'}$ in the L.H.S. of Eq. (4.62).

As a result, after integration over u the exponent in the function $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ remains real and $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ positive. This demonstrates that this bosonization method of computations is free of the sign problem. Substituting the solution obtained by inversion of the L.H.S. operator into

Eq. (4.47), the function $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ is given after discretization

by

$$Z_b[\tilde{\phi}] = Z_0 \exp \left[\frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \Delta \sum_{l,l_1=1}^N \sum_{r,r_1,r'_1;\sigma} \sigma \phi_r(\tau) n_{r_1,r'_1} \text{Tr} \left[\left\{ 1 - u \Delta \mathcal{G}^0 \sigma \tilde{\Phi} \Lambda_1 \right\}^{-1} \right]_{\{r,r\},\{r_1,r'_1\}}^{l,l_1} du \right]. \quad (4.63)$$

In Eq. (4.63) the symbol Tr stands for the trace of the 2×2 matrices introduced in the regularization, Eq. (2.40). The expression entering the square brackets under Tr is a 2×2 matrix in this “regularization space” and an $N_d^2 \times N_d^2 \times N \times N$ matrix with the space $\{r, r'\}, \{r_1, r'_1\}$ and time τ, τ_1 matrix elements. This matrix is obtained from the matrix $\mathcal{G}^0 \sigma \tilde{\Phi} \Lambda_1$ using the conventional rules of matrix operations. The only peculiarity is that the coordinates enter in pairs $\{r, r'\}$ and $\{r_1, r'_1\}$. Matrix elements can be written explicitly as

$$\left[\mathcal{G}^0 \sigma \tilde{\Phi} \Lambda_1 \right]_{\{r,r'\},\{r_1,r'_1\}}^{\tau,\tau_1} = \mathcal{G}_{r,r';r_1,r'_1}^0(\tau, \tau_1) \sigma \tilde{\Phi}_{r_1,r'_1}(\tau_1) \Lambda_1. \quad (4.64)$$

Eq. (4.63) can directly be used for computations. The integral over u cannot lead to singularities, which is guaranteed by the absence of the zero eigenvalues of the operator in the L.H.S. of Eq. (4.62) written for an arbitrary u . This property is valid for an arbitrarily large $\tilde{\Phi}$.

In principle, one could easily perform the integration over u already analytically before doing numerics, which gives in the continuous time limit

$$Z_b[\tilde{\phi}] = Z_0 \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{r,r_1,r'_1} \int_0^\beta \int_0^\beta d\tau d\tau_1 \tilde{\phi}_r(\tau) n_{r_1,r'_1} \times \text{Tr} \left[(\mathcal{G}^0 \tilde{\Phi} \Lambda_1)^{-1} \ln \left(1 - (\mathcal{G}^0 \tilde{\Phi} \Lambda_1)^2 \right) \right]_{\{r,r\},\{r_1,r'_1\}}^{\tau,\tau_1} \right], \quad (4.65)$$

The integrand in Eq. (4.65) is free of singularities as well. At small $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$ one can expand the logarithm and take the first order of the expansion. This leads us again to the RPA formula, Eq. (3.14). However, Eq. (4.63) looks more convenient for MC computations because it allows one to perform updating more easily.

Note that in the present paper, we decoupled the interaction by the Gaussian integration over $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$. For the on-site interaction, one can also use the “Ising spin” auxiliary field $s_{r,l}$ ²³. All the steps of the derivation of the functional $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ can be repeated with this field. The final expression, Eq. (4.44), should be replaced by the following sum over all configurations of $s_{r,l}$

$$Z = \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^{N_d N} \sum_{s_{r,l}} Z_b[\tilde{\phi}], \quad (4.66)$$

where N_d is the number of the sites in the system. The functional $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ for the Ising spin field has the same form

as previously with the field $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau) = \bar{\lambda} s_{r,l}/\Delta$, $\cosh \bar{\lambda} = \exp(V_0 \Delta/2)$, for $(l-1)\Delta \leq \tau < l\Delta$. Using the “Ising spin” auxiliary field can further improve the efficiency of the computational schemes.

3. A numerical test

As we have discussed previously the final formulas, Eqs. (4.62, 4.47) or Eq. (4.63), are different from the formula of the original fermionic model, Eqs. (4.13-4.16). These deviations are due to the introduced bath and states effectively discarded by introducing the parameter γ . So, generally speaking there is no reason to expect that the functions $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ and $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ are close to each other. As we have argued, they should be considerably different for, e.g., piece-wise functions with big jumps. The agreement between the partition functions Z is possible only after integration over $\tilde{\phi}_r$ and only in the limit of a large number of the sites N_d^{total} in the system.

However, what one can expect is the agreement between the values of $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ and $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ for static $\tilde{\phi}$ (one slice in time) for large N_d . Although we have demonstrated this agreement analytically in Appendix B, it is instructive to check this property numerically using Eqs. (4.62, 4.47) or Eq. (4.63). Such a test can also give a feeling of how well the numerical procedure based on using these equations can work.

We present in Fig. 7 an example of the convergence between Z_f and Z_b in a bath for the static case of one time slice. We consider a two sites Hubbard model embedded in a bath of $N_d^{total} - 2$ sites with periodic boundary conditions. The HS fields ϕ_r are not equal to zero on the sites $r = \{1, 2\}$ but are equal to zero elsewhere, such that only the sites 1 and 2 are interacting. Both analytical and numerical integration over u in Eq. (4.63) are suitable and we use both of them. Integrating over u in Eq. (4.63) analytically makes the computation faster but we have found a good agreement between the results obtained using both the approaches.

In Fig. 7 (a) the convergence between $\log(Z_f/Z_0)$ (upper curve) and $\log(Z_b/Z_0)$ (lower curve) is demonstrated in the static case, as the number of the sites in the bath is increased. Although the difference between these quantities is fairly small, the complete convergence is not very fast. Therefore, in order to understand the dependence of the deviation $\log(Z_f/Z_b)$ on the size of the system we

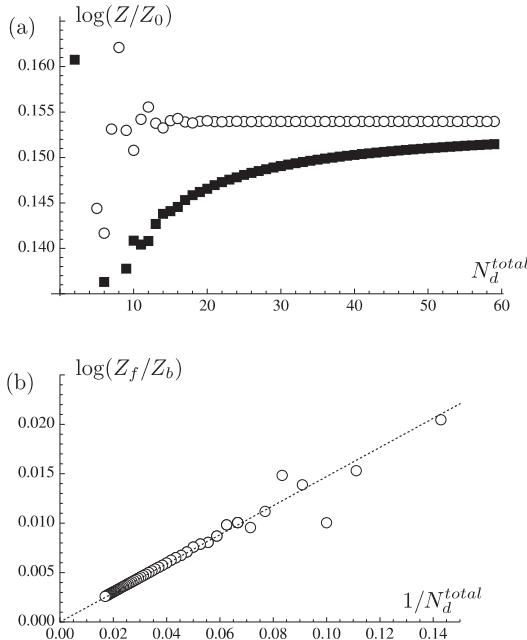


FIG. 7: (a) Numerical evaluation of $\log(Z_f/Z_0)$ (upper curve) and $\log(Z_b/Z_0)$ (lower curve) in the case of two sites Hubbard model imbedded in a bath of $N_d^{total} - 2$ sites in the static case (one time slice). The hopping parameter is taken as $t = 4.0$, the inverse temperature $\beta = 1.0$, the chemical potential $\mu' = 0.1$, and the regularization parameter $\gamma = 10^{-2}$. The HS fields on sites 1 and 2 are respectively $\phi_{r=1} = -1.0$ and $\phi_{r=2} = 1.0$. The entire system is a one dimensional ring in which the field ϕ can be finite only on two neighboring sites. (b) The deviation $\log(Z_f/Z_b)$ as a function of the inverse number of the sites in the system for the same parameters showing the $1/N_d^{total}$ rate of convergence.

plot in Fig. 7 (b) this quantity as a function of the inverse total number of the sites N_d^{total} in the system. As previously, the HS is non-zero on two sites only and all the parameters are the same.

Fig. 7 (b) shows that the deviation $\log(Z_f/Z_b)$ decays with the size of the sample inversely proportional to the total number of the sites N_d^{total} . This dependence is natural because the regularization with the parameter γ cuts out N_d^{total} of $(N_d^{total})^2$ states in the system. This example of the convergence completes the analytical proof of Appendix B, and shows that the bath is necessary in order to equate Z_f and Z_b . It shows as well that for any finite size system, Z_f and Z_b are different, Z_b converging asymptotically towards Z_f within an infinite bath.

The numerical procedure carried out here can be extended in a straightforward way to the case of the HS field $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$ varying in time, which corresponds to the case of many slices N . According to our analytical consideration there should not be principal problems with this general case and the function $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ must remain real and positive. This is demonstrated in Fig. 8

For the calculation of the bosonic function $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$, the integral over u in Eq. (4.63) has been calculated analyt-

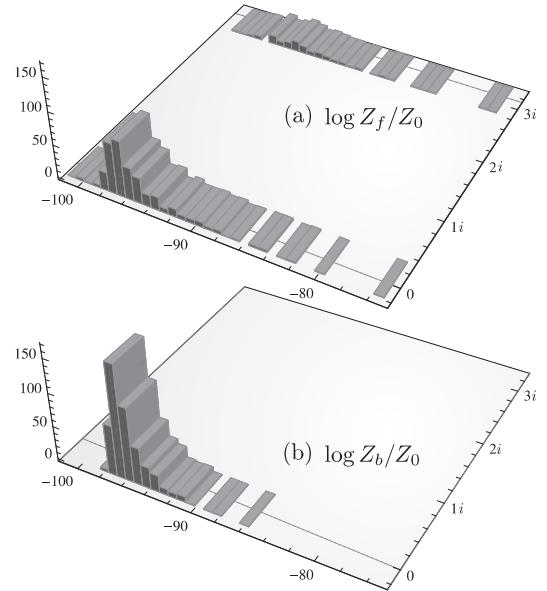


FIG. 8: Distribution of (a) $\log(Z_f/Z_0)$ and (b) $\log(Z_b/Z_0)$ for 500 configurations for $\phi_r(\tau)$ randomly chosen according to the Gaussian distribution, Eq. (2.12), for a system containing two interacting and one bath site in a ring geometry with parameters $t = 1.0$, $\mu = 2.0$, $V_0 = 3.0$, $\beta = 14$, and $\gamma = 10^{-3}$ and for three time slices. Only $\log(Z_f/Z_0)$ can have the imaginary part leading to the negative sign of the fermionic determinant.

ically (see Eq. (4.65)). The resulting matrix entering $\log(Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]/Z_0)$ was evaluated using numerical diagonalization. This quantity remains real to a high precision [Imaginary parts due to numerical inaccuracy are of order 10^{-13}] showing the positivity of $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$, whereas the imaginary part of $\log Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ jumps frequently between 0 and π showing the sign fluctuations of $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$. It is interesting to note that $\log Z_f$ is spread over a broader region of the real axis than $\log Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$.

The form of the distribution of $\log Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$, Fig. 8, shows that the sign problem is avoided in the bosonized representation. Moreover, the distribution is narrower than that of $\log Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ and we hope that the computational scheme may be efficient.

V. DISCUSSION

We have mapped models of interacting fermions onto models describing collective bosonic excitations. This was performed by decoupling the interaction between the fermions by a Hubbard-Stratonovich transformation and considering non-interacting fermions in the fluctuating HS field. The standard step of tracing out the fermions, which led to the fermionic determinant, was followed by converting this determinant into an integral containing in the integrand the solution of a linear differential equation. The latter step resembles writing quasiclassical equations

of Ref. 15 but is now exact in the thermodynamic limit, which has not been anticipated previously.

The basic equation is actually an analogue of the von Neumann equation for the density matrix and our transformation can be interpreted by analogy with the replacement of the description of quantum mechanics in terms of wave functions by the description with the density matrix. The solution of the equation $A_{r,r'}(\tau)$ plays the role of the density matrix. It obeys the bosonic boundary conditions $A_{r,r'}(\tau) = A_{r,r'}(\tau + \beta)$ and is a bosonic field.

In order to regularize the obtained equations we assumed that the model of the interacting electrons is imbedded in a bath. The latter is a part of the sample where the electrons do not interact with each other. In other words, the sample we consider is in a contact with metallic leads. The introduction of the environment can serve as an additional support of the the analogy of our field $A_{r,r}(\tau)$ with the density matrix.

We have checked the suitability of the new bosonic model for both analytical and numerical computations.

As concerns the analytical approach, we have expressed the solution of the equation for $A_{r,r'}(\tau)$ in terms of a functional integral over superfields Ψ using the well-known in field theory Becchi-Rouet-Stora-Tyutin transformation^{28,32}. This allowed us to integrate out the HS field ϕ and reduce the original fermionic model to a model of interacting bosons. One can work with this model using expansions in the interaction and we have compared the results of the perturbation theory with those for the initial fermionic model up to the second order in the interaction. This comparison demonstrated the exact agreement.

In a short future, a renormalization group scheme analogous to the one suggested previously in the quasiclassical approach¹⁵ will be developed and applied for studying anomalous contributions to thermodynamical quantities. More complicated models for strongly correlated systems can also be studied analytically using the bosonization approach developed here.

As concerns using the developed scheme for the MC calculations, the superfield theory obtained after averaging over ϕ with the help of the superfields Ψ is not directly suitable for this purpose. Since we do not know how to reach the final form without introducing integrals over Grassmann variables, the only possibility for numerics is to calculate using the bosonic model in the fluctuating HS field. There is a very strong motivation to try to study the bosonic model using the MC method. It is well-known that using the MC method for fermion models suffers generically from the famous negative sign problem. Since we have mapped the fermionic model onto a bosonic one, one might have a hope that the sign problem will not show up.

We have analyzed this idea and come to the conclusion that the MC simulations for the bosonized model shall be free of the sign problem. Practically, one can simply forget how the bosonic model has been obtained from the initial fermionic one and start investigating it by

discretizing time. Then one can make a HS transformation with a discrete field $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$ and obtain the formulas of subsection IV F. This would be logically sufficient for justifying our scheme.

However, we have considered this issue in great detail in subsections IV B and IV C. When deriving the basic equation for the bosonic field $A_{r,r'}(\tau)$, the fact that only the first order derivative with respect to τ enters the equations for the electron Green functions, Eqs. (2.24, 2.25), is crucial. Numerical schemes are based on discretizing the time but just replacing the derivative by a finite difference would make the reduction to the bosonic field $A_{r,r'}(\tau)$ impossible. We suggested a procedure of time discretization that enabled us to use a piece-wise HS field $\tilde{\phi}_{r,l}$ keeping the time continuous and carry our the bosonization. A crucial step in the transformation of the fermions into the bosons is the regularization based on the introduction of the bath and of the small parameter γ .

The importance of this regularization can be understood considering the conventional diagrammatic expansion for fermions. In this language, the bosonization means converting pairs of the fermion Green functions into a propagator of bosonic excitations. However, it is not possible to do this transformation if two or more Green functions have coinciding Matsubara frequencies and momenta.

The regularization based on introducing a small parameter γ removes such states and the presence of the bath makes their contribution small in the limit of a large number of sites in the bath. Our mapping can be used for any temperature, interaction and dimension of the system and, in this sense, the mapping is exact. At the same time, the presence of a sufficiently large bath is necessary to provide the agreement between the boson and fermion models.

We have discussed in subsections IV C and IV D the origin of the negative sign in the fermionic determinant $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ and demonstrated that the corresponding functional $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$, being generally different from $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$, is always positive. We have done this representing the solution for the differential equation for the bosonic field $A_{r,r'}(\tau)$ in terms of a sum containing eigenfunctions and eigenvalues, Eqs. (2.52, 2.54). With the regularization scheme developed in Section II, all the quantities entering these equations are real. In the language of Eqs. (2.52, 2.54), one would encounter the sign problem if an eigenvalue E^K could turn to zero at certain u . Then, the integration over u near such poles might generate an imaginary part and make the function $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ not necessarily real and positive. However, we have demonstrated (see Appendix A) that the eigenvalues E^K cannot turn to zero and there are no singularities in this spectral expansion. This allowed us to demonstrate that the distribution $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ that should be used for MC sampling is always real and positive, hence showing that there is a chance to overcome the negative sign problem by the bosonization.

Although the functionals $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ and $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ may even

have opposite signs for certain functions $\tilde{\phi}$, we present arguments that after integration over $\tilde{\phi}$ the partition function Z_b obtained in the bosonic model has to be a good approximation to the partition function Z_f of the original fermion model provided both the models are taken with the bath and the regularizing parameter γ is small. The absence of the sign oscillations in $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ should lead to smaller variations of the modulus of this quantity and, hence, to a better convergence in the MC simulations.

The logics of all these manipulations can be illustrated calculating two different integrals

$$I_1 = \sqrt{2} \int_0^\infty \cos ax^2 dx, \quad I_2 = \int_0^\infty e^{-ax^2} dx \quad (5.1)$$

Calculating the integral I_1 analytically, one can reduce it by turning the contours of the integration to the integral I_2 and show exactly that $I_1 = I_2$ for any a .

At the same time, we can discretize the variable x , replace the integrals by sums and calculate these sums by the MC method. Then, one can see that difficulties in the calculation of these sums are quite different. The integrand of I_2 is positive and the sum converges very fast. In contrast, the integrand of I_1 oscillates faster and faster with growing x and one cannot use it as the weight in the MC sampling. Of course, one could replace the integrand by its modulus and use the latter as the weight but then one would calculate the average sign of $\cos ax^2$ as in Eq. (4.3), which is not a very pleasant task.

Our scheme of the replacement of the fermionic determinant $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ by the bosonic functional $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ resembles the analytical reduction of the integral I_1 to the integral I_2 . This transformation can easily be carried out in the continuous limit by using the powerful theory of complex variables but making the same for finite length of slices is difficult and cannot be done exactly. It is clear that the discrete versions of the integrals I_1 and I_2 are different and the only justification for a replacement of I_1 by I_2 is that they must be equal to each other in the continuous limit.

A nice example relating the occurrence of the sign problem to the representation frame of a physical problem is discussed on p. 103 of Ref. 24. In this example, the model of a single spin in an external magnetic field is discussed. Although the corresponding Hamiltonian $H = -\mathbf{h} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}$ can be solved in a simple way, tackling the problem using the path integral approach can either lead to sums containing both positive and negative terms [choosing $\mathbf{h} = (h_x, h_y, 0)$ to lie in the xy -place], or lead to purely positive matrix elements [after rotating \mathbf{h} into the xz -plane, $\mathbf{h} = (h_x, 0, h_z)$]. While the result of the former choice resembles the fermionic sign problem, this sign problem is apparently “solved” by switching to the other reference frame.

This illuminating example shows that in some cases the sign problem can be overcome by a simple analytical transformation. Our approach for solving the fermionic sign problem looks similar: we make a rotation in a “generalized space” of bosons and fermions from the “fermion

plane” to the “boson plane”. Actually, it is not surprising that one does not encounter the sign problem in a bosonic model, but the fact that there can be an exact mapping between a fermion and boson model has not been anticipated previously.

The sign problem is a long standing problem of quantum MC computations for fermionic systems. There have been many attempts to overcome this problem writing sophisticated algorithms but it has not generally been solved until now. It has even been asserted²⁶ that the sign problem belonged to the class of NP-hard problems²⁷, which would imply that chances to solve it are very low. However, we do not think that the arguments presented in Ref. 26 can be considered as a rigorous proof. Even if our bosonization scheme will really work for the fermion models, we do not know yet how to apply it for any NP problem.

The functional $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ can be computed for any $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$ using directly Eq. (4.63). One can perform integration over u either numerically or analytically. The numerical integration over u looks more convenient because one can easily carry out the MC updating. Then, one can use the standard MC scheme for integration over the field $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$. One can also use the “Ising spin” auxiliary field²³ instead of the Gaussian field ϕ , which can make the computation faster.

In order to make an independent check and get a feeling of how one could compute using Eq. (4.63) we have calculated the function $Z_b[\tilde{\phi}]$ for a static field ϕ_r integrating over u both analytically and numerically and found a good agreement with the corresponding function $Z_f[\tilde{\phi}]$ of the original fermionic model. We do not expect essential difficulties in extending the computation to time-dependent HS fields $\tilde{\phi}_r(\tau)$ and hope that our bosonization scheme will be checked numerically in the nearest future.

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Appendix A: Absence of zero eigenvalues in the regularized model

Here, we demonstrate that the operator $\mathcal{H}_{r,r'}(\tau)$, Eq. (2.40), does not have zero eigenvalues E^K . This property is guaranteed by the presence of the regularizer γ . If we put $\gamma = 0$ in Eq. (2.40), zero eigenvalues E exist.

Putting $\gamma = 0$ we come to equations (2.46, 2.47). As the operators in the L.H.S. are not hermitian, the eigen-

values λ^K are complex and can turn to zero for certain fields $\phi_r(\tau)$.

Suppose that the modulus of an eigenvalue λ becomes very small or can even turn to zero and let us show that, nevertheless, the corresponding eigenvalue E remains finite for a finite γ .

Let $v_{r,r'}(\tau)$ be the eigenfunction corresponding to the eigenvalue λ in the first equation in (2.46). Another function $\bar{v}_{r,r'}^*(\tau)$ should correspond to the eigenvalue λ^* in the second equation in (2.47).

The small values of $|\lambda|$ correspond to small values of the eigenvalues E of Eq. (2.48) of a state with an eigenvector $S_{r,r'}(\tau)$. At $\gamma = 0$ and $\lambda = 0$ the solution of Eq. (2.48) is very simple. One obtains immediately $E = 0$, while the solution $S_{r,r'}(\tau)$ can be written in the form

$$S_{r,r'}(\tau) = c_1 S_{r,r'}^a(\tau) + c_2 S_{r,r'}^b(\tau) \quad (\text{A1})$$

with the vectors $S_{r,r'}^a(\tau)$ and $S_{r,r'}^b(\tau)$ given by

$$S_{r,r'}^a(\tau) = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{v}_{r,r'}^*(\tau) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad S_{r,r'}^b(\tau) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v_{r,r'}(\tau) \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{A2})$$

and arbitrary coefficients c_1 and c_2 . This means that the state with $E = 0$ is degenerate.

The case of small λ and γ can be considered using quantum mechanical perturbation theory. As the state with $E = 0$ is degenerate we seek for the solution $S_{r,r'}(\tau)$ writing it in the form of Eq. (A1). Following the standard scheme other states are neglected in this expansion.

Substituting Eq. (A1) into Eq. (2.48) we multiply both sides of the equation first by $S_{r,r'}^{a*}(\tau)$, then by $S_{r,r'}^{b*}(\tau)$, sum over r, r' and integrate over τ . This gives us a system of two equations for the coefficients c_1 and c_2 ,

$$\begin{aligned} (E - \gamma)x_1c_1 - c_2\lambda &= 0 \\ -c_1\lambda^* + (E + \gamma)x_2c_2 &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A3})$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= \sum_{r,r'} \int_0^\beta |\bar{v}_{r,r'}(\tau)|^2 d\tau, \\ x_2 &= \sum_{r,r'} \int_0^\beta |v_{r,r'}(\tau)|^2 d\tau. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A4})$$

Non-trivial solutions of Eq. (A3) exist provided the determinant equals to zero. This condition gives us the eigenvalues E

$$E = \pm \sqrt{\gamma^2 + \frac{|\lambda|^2}{x_1 x_2}}. \quad (\text{A5})$$

Eq. (A5) demonstrates explicitly that the eigenvalues cannot turn to zero even in the situation when $\lambda = 0$. This is a well known effect of level repulsion. The absence of the zero eigenvalues E justifies our method of the regularization.

Appendix B: Checking the regularization for a static Hubbard-Stratonovich field

In this Appendix we demonstrate that using the spectral expansion, Eqs. (2.52, 2.54), we come in the case of static HS fields back to Eq. (2.21). This can serve as a check of the transformations we have carried out in order to derive Eqs. (2.52, 2.54) and can help the reader to visualize our regularization scheme.

Assuming that the HS field ϕ_r does not depend on time we write time independent solutions $S_{r,r'}^K$ of Eq. (2.48) in the form

$$S_{r,r'}^K = \begin{pmatrix} S_{1;r,r'}^K \\ S_{2;r,r'}^K \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} w_r^k w_{r'}^{k'} \quad (\text{B1})$$

where a and b are coefficients and the functions w_r^k are the eigenfunctions of the operator \hat{h}_r , Eq. (2.24)

$$\hat{h}_r w_r^k = \lambda^k w_r^k \quad (\text{B2})$$

In the static case, only time independent solutions contribute into the exponent in Eq. (2.54) and for such states $K = \{k, k'\}$.

Substituting Eq. (B1) into Eq. (2.48) we come to a system of two linear equations

$$\begin{aligned} a(\lambda^k - \lambda^{k'}) - b\gamma &= E^K b \\ a\gamma + b(\lambda^k - \lambda^{k'}) &= E^K a \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B3})$$

Solution of these equations leads to the eigenvalue

$$E^K = \pm \sqrt{\gamma^2 + (\lambda^k - \lambda^{k'})^2} \quad (\text{B4})$$

Substituting Eq. (2.52) into Eq. (2.54) we have to calculate the sum over the eigenstates $S_{r,r'}^K$ and thus find the solutions for a and b from Eq. (B3) using the eigenvalues E^K , Eq. (B4). The function $Z[\phi]$ can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} Z[\phi] &= Z_0 \exp \left[-\frac{\beta}{2} \sum_{r,\sigma} \int_0^1 \phi_{r\sigma} (\phi_{r_1\sigma} - \phi_{r'_1\sigma}) n_{r_1,r'_1} \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. \sum_K \frac{(S_{1;r,r'}^K S_{2;r_1,r'_1}^K + S_{2;r,r'}^K S_{1;r_1,r'_1}^K)}{E^K} u du \right] \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B5})$$

The subscripts 1 and 2 in Eq. (B5) correspond to two different components of the vector $S_{r,r'}^K$, Eq. (B1).

One can easily obtain from Eqs. (B3, B4) that the product ab entering Eq. (B5) takes the form

$$ab = \pm \frac{1}{2} \frac{(\lambda^k - \lambda^{k'})}{\sqrt{(\lambda^k - \lambda^{k'})^2 + \gamma^2}} \quad (\text{B6})$$

and we come to the following form of the function $Z[\phi]$

$$\begin{aligned} Z[\phi] &= Z_0 \exp \left[-\beta \sum_{r,r_1,r'_1,\sigma,k,k'} \phi_{r\sigma} (\phi_{r_1\sigma} - \phi_{r'_1\sigma}) n_{r_1,r'_1} \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. w_r^k w_r^{k'} w_{r_1}^k w_{r'_1}^{k'} \frac{\lambda^k - \lambda^{k'}}{(\lambda^k - \lambda^{k'})^2 + \gamma^2} u du \right] \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B7})$$

We make a further transformation of Eq. (B7) using Eq. (2.26) and a corresponding equation written in the absence of the HS field $\phi_{r\sigma}$. Subtracting these equations from each other we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} -u\sigma(\phi_{r\sigma} - \phi_{r'\sigma})n_{r,r'} &= (\hat{\varepsilon}_r - u\sigma\phi_r \\ &- \hat{\varepsilon}_{r'} + u\sigma\phi_{r'})\left(G_{r,r';\sigma}^{(u\phi)}(\tau, \tau+0) - G_{r,r'}^{(0)}(\tau, \tau+0)\right) \end{aligned} \quad (B8)$$

Substituting Eq. (B8) into Eq. (B7) we reduce the function $Z[\phi]$ to the following form

$$\begin{aligned} Z[\phi] = Z_0 \exp \Big[\sum_{r,r_1,r'_1,\sigma,k,k'} &\int_0^1 \int_0^\beta du d\tau \sigma \phi_{r\sigma} w_r^k w_r^{k'} w_{r_1}^k w_{r'_1}^{k'} \\ &\times \frac{(\lambda^k - \lambda^{k'})^2 u}{(\lambda^k - \lambda^{k'})^2 + \gamma^2} \left(G_{r_1,r'_1}^{(u\phi)}(\tau, \tau+0) - G_{r_1,r'_1}^{(0)}(\tau, \tau+0)\right) \Big] \end{aligned}$$

In the limit $\gamma \rightarrow 0$ the state with $k = k'$ drops out from the sum and we obtain finally using the orthogonality of the functions w_r^k

$$\begin{aligned} Z[\phi] = Z_0 \exp \Big[\int_0^\beta \int_0^1 \Big[\sum_{r,\sigma} \sigma \phi_{r\sigma} \left(G_{r,r;\sigma}^{(u\phi)}(\tau, \tau+0) \right. \\ \left. - G_{r,r}^{(0)}(\tau, \tau+0)\right) - \sum_{r,r_1,r'_1,\sigma,k} \sigma \phi_{r\sigma} w_r^k w_r^{k'} w_{r_1}^k w_{r'_1}^{k'} \\ \left(G_{r_1,r'_1;\sigma}^{(u\phi)}(\tau, \tau+0) - G_{r_1,r'_1}^{(0)}(\tau, \tau+0)\right) \Big] \Big] d\tau du \quad (B10) \end{aligned}$$

We see that, containing the second sum, Eq. (B10) is somewhat different from Eq. (2.21). At this point we should recall that the system we consider contains a bath making the number of states large. The normalized eigenfunctions w_r^k are proportional to $(N_d^{total})^{-1/2}$. Therefore, the second sum in the exponent in Eq. (B10) is much smaller than the first term and can be neglected provided the total number of the sites in the system N_d^{total} is large. This example of the static HS field demonstrates very well how the regularization works.

Appendix C: Splitting times in the equation for $A_{r,r'}(z)$.

In this appendix we demonstrate that keeping in Eqs. (4.33-4.36) the parameter δ finite one can obtain imaginary part in the eigenvalues \tilde{E}^K of the operator $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{r,r'}^{(+)}(\tau)$, Eq. (4.36). The finite δ appears because the times τ and τ' entering the Green function $G_{r,r'}^{(u\phi)}(\tau, \tau')$ should be slightly different, $\tau' = \tau + \delta$. Although the value of δ can be infinitesimally small, the imaginary part of \tilde{E}^K can be very important in situations when the eigenvalue \tilde{E}^K is close to zero. The results derived

in this appendix are an extension of those obtained in appendix A to the case of finite δ .

Assuming that δ is small we expand the field $\tilde{\phi}_{r'}(\tau + \delta)$ entering Eqs. (4.33-4.36) in this parameter and represent the eigenvalue problem of the operator $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{r,r'}^{(+)}(\tau)$, Eq. (4.36), in the form

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{r,r'}^{(+)}(\tau) S_{r,r'}(z) = \tilde{E} S_{r,r'}(z), \quad (C1)$$

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{r,r'}^{(+)}(\tau) = \mathcal{H}_{r,r'}(z) + \hat{\delta}_{r,r'}(z),$$

where the hermitian operator $\mathcal{H}_{r,r'}(z)$ is defined in Eq. (2.40) and the matrix $\hat{\delta}_{r,r'}(z)$ can be written as

$$\hat{\delta}_{r,r'}(z) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma u \delta \frac{\partial \phi_{r'}(\tau)}{\partial \tau} \\ -\sigma u \delta \frac{\partial \phi_r(\tau)}{\partial \tau} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (C2)$$

Eq. (C1) is a direct generalization of Eq. (2.48) to the case of the split times. We assume that the eigenvalue \tilde{E} is close to zero. The regularization with the finite γ leads to level repulsion. All eigenvalues E^K calculated for $\delta = 0$ remain finite and real.

Considering finite δ drastically changes the situation even if δ is infinitesimally small. This is a consequence of the fact that the matrix $\hat{\delta}_{r,r'}(z)$ is not hermitian and therefore the operator $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{r,r'}^{(+)}(\tau)$ acting on $S_{r,r'}(z)$ in the L.H.S. of Eq. (C1) is not hermitian, too. This means that the eigenvalues \tilde{E} can now be complex.

In order to calculate the eigenvalue \tilde{E} we use, as in appendix A the degenerate perturbation theory considering the matrices $\hat{\delta}_{r,r'}(z)$ and $\gamma \Lambda$ as a perturbation.

We represent the solution of Eq. (C1) in the form of Eq. (A1, A2) and multiply both sides of Eq. (C1) by $S_{r,r'}^{a*}(\tau)$ and then by $S_{r,r'}^{b*}(\tau)$, summing after that over r, r' and integrating over τ . As a result, we obtain equations for the coefficients c_1 and c_2

$$\begin{aligned} (\tilde{E} - \gamma) x_1 c_1 - c_2 (\lambda + \tilde{\lambda}_1 \delta) &= 0 \quad (C3) \\ -(\lambda^* - \tilde{\lambda}_2 \delta) c_1 + (\tilde{E} + \gamma) x_2 c_2 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

with positive numbers x_1 and x_2 given by Eq. (A4). The complex parameters $\tilde{\lambda}_1$ and $\tilde{\lambda}_2$ have the form

$$\tilde{\lambda}_1 = \sigma u \sum_{r,r'} \int_0^\beta \bar{v}_{r,r'}(\tau) \frac{\partial \phi_{r'}(\tau)}{\partial \tau} v_{r,r'}(\tau) d\tau, \quad (C4)$$

$$\tilde{\lambda}_2 = \sigma u \sum_{r,r'} \int_0^\beta \bar{v}_{r,r'}^*(\tau) \frac{\partial \phi_r(\tau)}{\partial \tau} v_{r,r'}^*(\tau) d\tau$$

where the functions $v_{r,r'}(\tau)$ and $\bar{v}_{r,r'}(\tau)$ and the complex eigenvalues λ are introduced in Eqs. (2.46, 2.48).

In the limit $|\lambda| \rightarrow 0$ the functions $v_{r,r'}(\tau)$ and $\bar{v}_{r,r'}(\tau)$ are related to each other as

$$v_{r,r'}(\tau) \simeq \bar{v}_{r',r}(\tau) \quad (C5)$$

and we obtain

$$\tilde{\lambda}_2^* \simeq \tilde{\lambda}_1 = \tilde{\lambda} \quad (\text{C6})$$

Substituting Eq. (C6) into Eqs. (C3) and solving the latter we obtain the eigenvalue \tilde{E}

$$\tilde{E} = \pm \sqrt{\gamma^2 + \frac{|\lambda|^2 + 2\delta i \text{Im}(\tilde{\lambda}\lambda^*)}{x_1 x_2}} \quad (\text{C7})$$

Eq. (C7) demonstrates that the value of \tilde{E} near the point $\lambda = 0$ strongly depends on the ratio γ/δ . In the limit $|\lambda| \gg \delta \gg \gamma$ we obtain

$$\tilde{E} = \pm \left[|\lambda| + i\delta \frac{\text{Im}(\tilde{\lambda}\lambda^*)}{|\lambda|} \right] \frac{1}{(x_1 x_2)^{1/2}} \quad (\text{C8})$$

We see from Eqs. (C7, C8) that a finite value of δ that determines the splitting of the times makes the eigenvalues \tilde{E} complex. The imaginary part, being infinitesimally small is very important for small λ generating a finite imaginary part of the integral over u in Eq. (2.54). Working in the limit of $\gamma \ll \delta$ one would inevitably encounter the sign problem. In contrast, putting $\delta = 0$ and working with small but finite γ gives strictly positive $Z[\phi]$ and one avoids the sign problem.

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